

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, the 10th January 1950.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 2-30 p.m., Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNARAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

[95-A Q.—

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member Mr. Ramaswami Reddiyar is not here. Is he likely to come? ”]

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—“ Yes, Sir, he may be coming.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Then I will take it up last.”

Colonel Karamchandani, District Medical Officer, Bellary.

* 96 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the details of the qualifications of Colonel Karamchandani, I.M.S., present District Medical Officer of Bellary;

(b) whether the Government have issued an order in 1935 or thereabout entitling him to charge a fee of Rs. 32 for each consultation;

(c) whether such a Government Order has been issued in favour of any other I.M.S. Officer;

(d) whether there is any rule or convention that such officers with high qualifications should be posted to the Metropolis or flourishing cities like Mathurai or Tiruchirappalli or Coimbatore; and

(e) whether the Government have received any representations from the public of Bellary that he should be transferred to any other place and if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ (a) The qualifications of Lieut.-Col. P. V. Karamchandani are M.B.B.S. (Bombay) and F.R.C.P. (Edin.).

“ (b) to (d) The answer is in the negative; the question of fees for private practice is a matter for the Medical Officer and his private patients.

“ (e) Lieutenant-Colonel Karamchandani, District Medical Officer, Bellary, has been transferred as District Medical Officer, North Arcot.”

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—“ May I know whether in the past the practice was to post to Headquarters Hospitals senior I.M.S. officers who were generally Europeans so that European Civilian officers in such places might get medical treatment from them, and if so, is there any necessity for that practice to be continued? ”

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Whatever be the practice in the past, things have considerably changed and we do not pursue that policy.”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“ May I know whether there is any complaint about this particular gentleman when he was in charge of the Tiruchirappalli hospital?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ He was in Tiruchirappalli years ago. I do not know how that question arises.”

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—“ May I know whether there were any complaints to the Government against Mr. Karamchandani when he was doctor in charge of the Tiruchirappalli hospital to the effect that he was very cruel towards the workers and that he was very active in suppressing the trade union movement of the hospital workers?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ That has nothing to do with this question because this question relates to Colonel Karamchandani who is a senior I.M.S. Medical Officer who worked in Bellary. He has since been transferred to North Arcot.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether the Government do not consider it necessary that they should fix the maximum amount a doctor can charge as fees for consultation especially when the doctor happens to be a Government servant?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ If it is a private case, he has got his own way of dealing with it. We have no rules in regard to that matter.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ In view of the fact that these doctors are the only competent doctors available in the profession, do not the Government feel that they should see that their officers do not fleece the poor patients who have to go to them for consultation?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ If the hon. Member has got specific instances, we will certainly go into the matter.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Will the Government consider the advisability of making a rule that when a doctor who is a Government employee is consulted by anybody, the patient need pay only according to his ability?”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ There is no such thing; it is his private practice.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I am asking whether the Government, in consideration of the fact that the doctor is getting a pay from the Government, will not consider the advisability of making a rule enabling everybody to consult the doctor if he wants to consult him and pay him according to his means.”

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Certainly everybody is allowed to consult the doctor at the time and the place specified."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" In view of the fact that these doctors receive high pay from the tax-payers' money, is it not advisable that the fee that they should be allowed to charge for consultation should be specifically prescribed by the Government so that there may be uniformity and the doctors' services may be available to the common man especially because they are being paid by the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The doctor's fees are certainly controlled by the Government and there are already rules regarding the amount of fees that the doctor could charge. If people want to consult him on all occasions and at any time they please other than the specified hours, the doctor can try to charge any fees he thinks proper. His salary has nothing to do with private patients because his salary depends upon the grade he possesses as an I.M.S. Officer and it does not include any category of fees that he should receive for his private work."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" When these doctors are permitted to have private practice, may I know whether the Government should not prescribe the fees they can charge from the public because they are already paid by the tax-payer in the form of their salary? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That is the question. Are the Government prepared to give a specific answer whether they are prepared to fix the fee? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government have fixed the rate. By way of certain specific terms the doctor is allowed to charge his own fees for private cases. The mere fact that he is a Government servant in a specified way does not naturally imply that any of the rate-payers can go and call on him and engage him beyond the specified hours of work."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is about consultation fees. Is there any limit to the fee to be charged? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No. Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of fixing such ceiling limit for the fees to be charged? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The matter will certainly be considered. But as I informed the House, there are certain regulations already for charging fees particularly by these high-paid officers."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the doctors, who are paid a salary by the Government, in full time service of the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

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DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Have the Government fixed the time during which their services are at the disposal of the public and at which time they cannot charge a fee? If so, what are the hours? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Hours are all fixed when they have got to be in their office rooms and people are entitled to go and demand the services of the doctor at that place at the specified hours.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Are the Government aware of the public feeling that when Government doctors who are paid salaries by the Government charge fees which are considered extortionate, the Government become unpopular? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I am aware of it, Sir.”

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—“ According to the regulations mentioned by the Hon. Minister, what is the maximum amount of fee to be charged by a doctor? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I want notice of the question, Sir.”

Provision of roads in villages.

* 97 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether many of the villages in the Province become isolated, especially in the rainy season, as they have not even earthen roads to link up to the main roads;

(b) whether the Government have under consideration in their road programme to provide every village with a good earthen road to link up to the major road;

(c) if so, in what time it is proposed to complete the programme; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Highways Department have not paid any attention to the construction of roads in panchayat and non-panchayat areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ The information^a asked for is placed on the table of the House.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know whether the Government think that the completion of the programme is possible in view of the financial position of the Government? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ That is exactly the question which we have to examine and which I cannot answer now.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ Will the Government give priority at least to this one scheme? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—“ There are several schemes which would need much higher priority than this scheme.”

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SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have rural problems got any priority with the Government? Do the Government feel that rural roads demand higher priority than roads in urban areas? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Rural problems are certainly being given all the attention that they should have, but rural problems do not mean only rural roads."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have the Government any comprehensive scheme of rural development including rural roads? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" As I have said, we have already framed a comprehensive programme which will serve a wider area and we hope to carry it through."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Do not the Government think roads are necessary for the agriculturists to carry their produce to the nearest market? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no doubt about it."

Alleged irregularities in the election to the Madras Medical Council.

* 98 Q.—DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

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(a) whether a Special Officer was appointed by the Government to enquire into the representations made by Dr. Venkappa and others regarding alleged irregularities in the conduct of election to the Madras Medical Council held in 1946;

(b) the expenses incurred by the Government by the appointment of the Special Officer and his staff, office equipment, etc.;

(c) whether the report of the Special Officer was received by the Government; and

(d) if so, whether that report will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) Rs. 2,255-8-0.

" (c) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (d) The report is confidential and it is not desirable in public interest to disclose it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether action will be taken on the report of the Special Officer? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, certainly, Sir."

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Grant of annual subsidies to the Madras Medical Council.

* 99 Q.—DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have been granting annual subsidies to the Madras Medical Council to meet the deficit in the budget of the Council; and

(b) whether the same has been paid this year also?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“(a) Yes.

“(b) Orders sanctioning the payment of grant for 1949–50 have been issued.”

Working of the Firka Development Scheme.

* 100 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether Sri G. Ramachandran, Secretary, All-India Village Industries Association, has submitted his report about the working of the Firka Development Scheme;

(b) whether the Government have accepted all the suggestions made by him;

(c) whether it is proposed to implement the scheme *in toto* or in part; and

(d) whether a copy of the report of Sri G. Ramachandran will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The Government have already accepted some of the suggestions made by Sri G. Ramachandran. Some others are under consideration.

“(c) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the suggestions made by Sri G. Ramachandran. They are being examined and such of the suggestions as can be accepted will be implemented.

“(d) Copies of the reports of Sri G. Ramachandran are placed on the table of the House.”

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—“In view of the fact that the report runs to 26 pages, it will require time to study it and put supplementary questions. I would therefore suggest that this question might be postponed.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“You asked for the report. You got it. That is all.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“May I know how far the Government have taken action on the suggestions?”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“Some of the suggestions are important ones and are for the expansion of the scheme over different areas. They have been implemented.

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Some other suggestions are being examined. If the Government think that they should be accepted, they would implement them."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that there must be a lot of co-operation and co-ordination between the various departments and may I ask whether the Government will go into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That is being done."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Have the Government issued necessary instructions to other departments to ensure better co-ordination and co-operation between the various departments? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir. We have issued instructions."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Will the suggestions for the development of the Firka Development Department be implemented? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" They are being examined by the Government."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that there is lack of co-ordination among the various departments? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Then, how can the Hon. Minister say that co-ordination is being effected? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Government are aware that there is co-ordination. The department is in its initial stages and a lot of dust and cobwebs have to be cleaned up before long. In course of time, there should be ample co-ordination of all the departments."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" The Hon. Minister said that the department is in its initial stages. Then, may I ask how did he allow a lot of dust and cobwebs to accumulate even in its initial stages? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" It was on account of the neglect of the previous Government, Sir."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Is the Government aware that there was no Firka Development Department during the regime of the previous Government? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That is exactly the reason why this Government have taken up this question and are doing what they can and what is possible."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Since there was no Firka Development Scheme at all during the previous Government, there was no question of cobwebs and dust accumulating in the initial stages. That was my question, Sir."

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ The previous British Government did not take so much interest in the village uplift work as it is being done by the Congress Government. Now, we have set apart about a crore of rupees for this uplift work. We are concentrating our attention upon village uplift work. With this object in view we have started a separate department to go into the question. Therefore we have got to speed up the work.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ Have the Government decided to extend the scheme to other firkas? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ The Government have accepted to extend the scheme to more firka areas in about 100 villages.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ When will work start in the extended firkas? ”

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—“ As early as possible.”

Launching of prosecutions under the control orders.

* 101 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether any discretion is given according to the present rules to the Collectors of districts not to launch prosecutions under the various control orders relating to foodgrains or rationing rules in petty and trivial or deserving cases where there is no intention to disobey and indulge in blackmarketing;

(b) if not, whether the Government have under consideration the question of permitting the Collectors of districts to use their discretion in launching such prosecution?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“ (a) Yes.

“ (b) In view of answer to clause (a), this does not arise.”

Distribution of iron, steel and galvanized sheets.

* 102 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the quantity of iron and steel and galvanized iron sheets received from January 1949 up to the end of September 1949;

(b) the quantity that has been allotted for agricultural purposes; and

(c) how it has been distributed among the various districts?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Industries) :—“ (a) 12,106 tons of iron and steel and 2,087 tons of galvanized iron sheets.

“ (b) 4,390 tons of iron and steel and 499 tons of galvanized iron sheets.

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“(c) A statement a showing the quantity of iron and steel and galvanized iron sheets as distributed to the various districts is placed on the table of the House.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ May I know if there is any basis on which distribution is made? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I believe applications are received and that is one of the basis of distribution.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ Is the matter of giving permits left to the will of the officers concerned or whether there is any principle that is laid down by the Government? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ No principle is laid down by the Government. The idea is to see that every area in the Presidency gets an equitable quantity. But I see from the distribution chart here that most probably some areas did not want that much, and so they did not get. Some have got only that much of what they have asked for. If some areas want more, they are given increased quantity.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ Is it true that some areas did not at all want? I think that it is a universal fact that every district wants these. So, is it true that there is no demand for these from the districts concerned? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the statement furnished. If his case is that somebody who has applied for these, has been refused, then I would like to investigate into the matter.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ In the statement some districts have not been allotted any quantity of galvanized sheets whereas I know that there is a lot of demand from the districts? May I know the reason for this? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ The chart that has been placed on the table of the House shows not allotment, but distribution.”

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—“ Are the Government aware that in dry cultivation areas more iron implements for agricultural purposes are necessary and so far as Rayalaseema is concerned the supply is inadequate? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ That is a well-known fact. As I have already stated, if some districts have not received the quantities equivalent to other districts, it must most probably be that they have not asked for it. As I have already stated if it is brought to the notice of the Government that any application was refused, certainly the Government will go into the matter.”

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—“ May I mention that there has been a demand for these from many people from the West Godavari

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district and that they have not been allotted? May I know whether the Hon. Minister will go into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" According to the chart laid on the table, the quantity of iron distributed to West Godavari is 215 tons and the quantity of galvanized iron is nil."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" My question is when there is a demand from that district, why nothing was allotted to that district? May I know if the Hon. Minister in charge could investigate into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" As the hon. Member has raised this question, I shall ask the department concerned to find out whether there has been a demand from that district and if it has been refused. If there was demand, even now I think it should not be difficult to allot them some quantity."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the claims from different parts of the House, may I request the Government to ask the officer concerned to review the releases made to the different districts so that at least there is equitable distribution in future? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That will be noted."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" May I suggest to the Government that they may fix a definite quota for the various districts instead of giving a free hand to the officers concerned? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" If there is a definite demand from a particular district, we can give them the necessary quota. So there is no point in these things stagnating in places where they may not be required."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" I know that it is universally known that injustice is being done by the departments concerned. That is why I would suggest to the Government to see that a fixed quota is allotted for each district. If there is demand for it, the districts will take them. Otherwise, the quota not wanted by the districts could be distributed to the other districts which require it."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I may tell that there was a proposal that every district must get an equal quota. I believe it was on this principle the districts were distributed. But from the chart which has been placed on the table, it looks that some districts have not got anything. I was inferring from that that those districts did not actually want these. Anyhow, as I have already said that if a specific case is brought to the notice of the Government, the Government will go into the matter and review the whole position and see that justice is done to everybody in the districts."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know whether the figures given refer only to those relating to agricultural purposes and do

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not take into account the releases for other purposes in the districts? In Mathurai district, I know galvanized iron sheets were released for other purposes. Is it not a fact that the statement refers only to agricultural purposes? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I take it that the whole question and the supplementary questions put by the hon. Member related only to agricultural purposes and not other purposes."

The Chingleput District Wholesale Co-operative Stores.

* 103 Q.—DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have received petitions stating—

(a) that the Chingleput District Wholesale Co-operative Stores are compelling producers to give $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 measures of paddy or rice free for every 2 maunds of paddy or rice purchased;

(b) that the producers have no option in the matter as they have to sell their paddy only to the agents of the wholesale stores who take their own time to purchase the paddy; and

(c) that it would be more advantageous to the producers if more wholesalers are appointed by the Government?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) to (c) No."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" Have no complaints been received? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" No complaints are on record here."

Manufacture and sale of Vanaspathi.

* 104 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government intend to prohibit the manufacture and sale of Vanaspathi;

(b) whether it has been found that Vanaspathi is injudicious to health; and

(c) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal to decentralize the oil industries and encourage the village ghani?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Minister for Industries) :—" (a) & (b) No, Sir. The Government of India is conducting investigations. It has not yet been established that Vanaspathi is injurious to health.

(c) A proposal to discourage the starting of oil mills in rural areas which would displace rural industries is under the consideration of Government."

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Profit earned by the Chingleput District Wholesale Co-operative Stores.

* 105 Q.—DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that of the net profits earned by all the District Wholesale Co-operative Stores in the Province the net profit earned by the Chingleput Stores for the year 1947-48 was the largest; and

(b) whether the same is due to the large difference in the procurement and selling prices of paddy and rice?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—“(a) Yes.

“(b) No. The profit earned in 1947-48 by procurement was Rs. 1,28,270-2-0. Of this amount Rs. 94,824 related to transactions in 1946-47 which however came to be adjusted in the accounts of 1947-48. The balance of Rs. 33,446-2-0 alone represented the profit on about 13,950 tons procured by the Stores in 1947-48 which works out to about one anna six pies per maund. The Stores strictly adhered to the procurement and sale prices fixed by the Government.”

Receipts and expenditure for the Andhra and the Residuary Provinces.

* 95-A Q.—SRI N. SANKARA REDDI (on behalf of Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiyar): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state the income and expenditure including income-tax and sales tax under different heads for—

(i) the whole of the proposed Andhra Province, district-war; and

(ii) the rest of the Province of Madras, district-war?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—“A statement giving the available information for the year 1948-49 is placed on the table of the House. The figures of direct receipts and expenditure for the three taluks of Adoni, Alur and Rayadurg of the Bellary district have been assumed to be one-third of those for the district. The figures given in the statement will require adjustments for various purposes, to arrive at a normal forecast of the financial position of the proposed Andhra Province and the residuary Province.”

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“May I know, Sir, whether final adjustments had not been made when the Partition Committee met?”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“We went on the basis of the accounts for 1948-49. We are now at the fag end of 1949-50 and so it makes little difference.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“My question was whether final adjustments were made when the Partition Committee

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reported to the Government of Madras and whether the figures furnished in the statement placed on the table of the House were available to the Committee?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It was only a forecast for the proposed Andhra Province and was naturally based on the accounts for 1948-49 and no adjustments were made either by the Partition Committee or the Government of Madras."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly, dated 9th January 1950 :—

' In accordance with rule 94 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), as passed by the Assembly on the 9th January 1950, and signed by me for the concurrence of the Council '."

III.—MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I have also to announce to the House that I have received the following messages from His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated 10th December 1949 :—

' In pursuance of section 299, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby accord my previous sanction for the introduction of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949, in the Madras Legislative Council.

' In pursuance of section 82, sub-section (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Krishna Kumarsinhji Bhavsinhji, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council the consideration of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949 '."

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS ESTATES (ABOLITION AND CONVERSION INTO RYOTWARI) AMENDMENT BILL, 1949 (L.A. BILL NO. 1 OF 1950).

* **THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—**" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

' that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration at once.'

Sir, under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, as soon as an estate is notified the estate has to be surveyed and then settled in accordance with ryotwari

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principles and until these operations are completed, compensation cannot be paid to the claimants. The survey and settlement operations are expected to take some years and it is therefore considered desirable that provisions should be made for the payment of some portion of the compensation in advance at once, without waiting for the completion of these operations. The Bill makes provision accordingly. A rough estimate will be made of the compensation payable in respect of each estate as soon as it is notified and one-half of the amount as so estimated will be deposited as advance compensation in the office of the Tribunal within six months of the notified date. The advance compensation will be adjusted towards the compensation as finally determined under the Act. Annual interim payments will continue to be made as provided in section 50 of the Act but the amounts will be reduced by one-half, suitable adjustments being made when making the final reckoning.

“ Sir, it is also proposed to amend the Act so as to ensure the payment of a minimum sum of twelve and half crores of rupees as compensation for zamindari estates in the Province. According to this amendment, if after the amounts of compensation payable in respect of all zamindari estates have been finally determined, the aggregate of such amounts falls short of twelve and half crores of rupees, an amount equal to the sum by which the aggregate so falls short will be distributed among the estates *pro rata*.

“ The opportunity has been taken, Sir, to amend section 40 (2) of the Act so as to make the rules made under that section subject to the approval not only of the Legislative Assembly but also of this House. Hon. Members will remember that I gave an assurance to this effect when I moved the rules in last November before this House for its approval. This amendment also implements the assurance given on the floor of this House by the Revenue Minister then in charge on the 24th November 1948 that any rules framed under the Act would also come up before this House for consideration. I may tell you, Sir, that this amendment will not, however, affect the validity of any rules made before this Bill becomes law.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The motion is—

‘ that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration at once ’..

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I have given notice of an amendment that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee of this House as very serious amendments have been proposed in this Bill. It would appear that in this legislation—Abolition of Zamindaris—Government do not follow any policy or any principle nor are they consistent. Sir, after elaborate discussion in both the Houses only last year, the Government made provision for the payment of compensation to zamindars. In November last—I think on the 18th—the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue placed on the table of the House certain rules for payment of compensation to be framed by the Government under

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section 41 of the Act. Now it is said that the main Act was passed last year without knowing that there were difficulties in the way of the Government in fixing the compensation. I cannot understand, Sir, how this Government could not make a calculation or could only make a mis-calculation so early as in November last when rules were framed to which amendments are now brought forward. Now, there are two serious amendments

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Does the hon. the Leader of the Opposition refer to rules to be amended by this Bill? ”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ The previous rules were made under section 41 of the Act and now this Bill gives the go by even to those rules.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I do not think so.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ It does, Sir. Because the rules provide that if the basic annual sum in respect of the estate exceeds Rs. 3,000 but not Rs. 50,000 the compensation shall be paid in equal annual instalments not exceeding three in number and if the basic annual sum in respect of the estate exceeds Rs. 50,000 the compensation shall be paid in equal annual instalments not exceeding five in number. Now this present Bill provides that before June this year the Government shall have to pay down half of twelve and a half crores of rupees, in cash. This is different from what was contemplated in November last, that is, just two months ago.”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA :—“ It is for that reason—that is, because we want to pay that sum—this amending Bill has been brought forward.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ What I am suggesting is, Sir, two serious amendments are sought to be made now to this Act. It is a very important matter to consider whether this amount should be shelled out now by the Government when they have no money for nation-building activities. Whether it is for the provision of civic needs or for extension of education or for housing or, last but not least, for reclaiming lands and helping agriculturists under the Grow More Food campaign, Government plead want of funds. But what does this amending Bill provide? The Government must shell down Rs. 6½ crores. There is another curious thing about this Bill. I find a provision which goes to the very basic principle of the Act. According to this provision the Government will pay an aggregate sum of Rs. 12½ crores by way of compensation. This has to be paid without any account whatsoever and without any idea as to how much they must actually pay. I want to know from the Government whether they have any idea or they will be able to get any idea of the amount of compensation to be paid. Is it because they cannot even make a rough estimate that this 12½ crores of rupees has been provided? Again, Sir, what is the basis on which this figure has been arrived at? If this amending Bill is passed, the effect of it will be, the Government may have to pay, even if the compensation amounts to, say, Rs. 6½ crores as

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per the main Act, over and above that an equal sum in order to make up the 12½ crores proposed now. Sir, this measure, first of all, began by expropriating the landholders, by telling them 'you are not landholders at all, you are just collectors of revenue only and so we can give you only so much.' Even then, we protested against enacting such an expropriatory measure. Now, the Government have come to the decision that not only the zamindars should be paid on the basis mentioned in the original Act but they will also be paid over and above that a sum which will constitute the difference between that sum and the proposed 12½ crores. As the Hon. the Minister has stated, it may be one and a half crores or it may go up to 5 or 6 crores of rupees. I ask, 'why should this be paid to the zamindars, why not it be paid for acquiring lands and why not the lands be sold to the agricultural labourers,' payment being arranged by the 'annuity' system. I strongly feel that if the final figure determined after survey and settlement is just equal to the payment to be made in June this year—that is, half of the aggregate amount contemplated by the Government—or more, no more money should be paid to the zamindars. Whether the zamindars are paid the value of the estate or have been over-paid, I feel Government should not come forward with another payment especially when they cannot easily find the money for it. This is what I am emphasizing. This important amendment should and ought to have been examined by a select committee. Sir, you are a lawyer yourself and you will find, if you go closely through this amendment, that many other sections of the original Act will require modification. Sir, when this fact was pointed out in the other House to the Hon. the Revenue Minister, he said 'we will bring in another amending Bill later on if there is need for it' . . ."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I never said anything like that."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"There is the report in *The Hindu* here. Perhaps it might have reported wrongly. But I find he has said like that. Sir, the Act was passed after discussion running to several days in the other House as well as this and certain rules were framed not even two months ago under that Act. Now another set of amendments is brought forward to those rules themselves which are very serious and therefore, deserve a good deal of scrutiny. And I feel that job can best be done by a select committee. I cannot understand why there should be this hurry-burry about it. If you pass this Bill in a haste again the Government may be compelled to come before this House with yet another amending Bill. So, Sir, these amendments, besides being serious in themselves, require consequential and incidental amendment of the other sections of the Act also. We must go through them and only a select committee can go through them. If they think that this Bill can be passed by the Congress Legislature Party and then it can be passed in the Legislature because they have a majority in this House and the other House, then it is different. The usefulness of this House is at stake. We are not going through

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a farce of a discussion. I have given notice that this matter stand adjourned under rule 63. Now I am on the select committee question. If you, Mr. President, will allow me I will speak on the motion for the postponement of the consideration of the Bill also. This Bill is being rushed through. Late in the evening yesterday, this was passed in the Assembly. This is a Bill which will commit the Government to a payment of Rs. 6½ crores in another six months, when we have no money at all. It will commit the Government to pay the zamindars more than what was provided in the original Bill, as if there are no other classes of people except the zamindars who ought to be benefited. It is a very serious matter and it should be examined by the select committee. It will help the Government. Why should the Government hurry through it? In spite of days being spent in the discussion of the original Bill in the Assembly and the Council, the Government have had to come forward with this amending Bill before anything is done under the Act. That means that they are rushing through things, they are not consistent, they have no ideas and no principles. The other day I was reading a book, for which the Government have spent a lot of money in printing. It is a book called 'Three Years Work of the Madras Ministry.' (An hon. Member : 'It is a party publication.') Whoever has published it, it is public money wasted. One of the achievements of the Congress Party is said to be the Zamindari Abolition Bill. I say, Sir, that from every point of view, it is a record of failure of the Government to act on some principle, on some policy and with consistency even if they adopted a wrong policy. They have no consistency at all, they are rushing through everything because they have got a majority. I ask my friends on the other side whether they have understood this Bill. Even a very trained lawyer going through this amendment will take hours and hours to understand the import and the meaning of these amendments."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I may just inform hon. Members that I waived notice for this for the following reasons. First of all there was some uncertainty about the continuance of this Council. This Bill had gone through the other House and has to be passed by us. The Government did not want it to be left unfinished at this stage. That is one of the main reasons. Secondly I thought that the Bill having been published long ago in the Government Gazette and no amendments having been made in the other House, there can be no difficulty in considering the Bill here. I thought the House would not be at a disadvantage in taking it up to-day. Another reason is this. On the 7th, when we were rising, I informed the House that this Bill was likely to come before this House to-day and that this House was going to be adjourned to this day just for the purpose of this Bill. I requested hon. Members to be ready with this Bill. For these three reasons I thought I was justified in waiving notice. I am giving these reasons for the information of the hon. Members."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" We had no idea that no amendments would be made in the other House. Perhaps you are in a better

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position than the Members of the Opposition to know whether amendments would be made in the other House or not. But the Bill was passed by the other House only late in the evening yesterday and I do not see any reason why it should be rushed through. There may have been some reasons on the 7th, but much water has flown down the bridges since the 7th. I find that many of the Hon. Ministers are pleased that the Andhra Province is not coming into existence on the 26th."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I hope the hon. Member is not questioning my discretion in waiving notice. My discretion has been exercised. The hon. Member's discretion is there. He may move his amendments or not as he pleases. I have told the House what prompted me to waive notice."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"That is quite true, Sir. We have always been happy that you do what you think proper in the interests of the House."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I knew that such an objection would be raised and I took care about it."

DR. V. K. JOHN:—"We are now in different circumstances altogether. We then thought that this House would be extinguished."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I do not know whether the matter is so clear now. The position is in a fluid state and we do not know what will happen."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Everything is in a fluid state. But, Sir, you are the custodian of the usefulness of the House—I do not say of the dignity and prestige of the House—and I ask you why should we rush through this important piece of legislation without having that examined by a select committee? In that select committee the Government will have a majority."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"I am not saying anything against the motion. It is not for me to say whether a select committee should be appointed or not."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"At the same time, under certain conditions you agreed to have this Bill discussed. According to the rules, three days' notice should be given for amendments. I have given notice of some amendments. How is this House useful unless we are given sufficient and reasonable time to go into a paper that reaches us this morning at 10 o'clock by post?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may adduce these arguments when he moves his adjournment motion. Now he is on the question of a select committee."

* DR. V. K. JOHN:—"Let us have this Bill examined by a select committee. Otherwise I am quite sure that within a short time, in another two months, the Government will bring forward another Bill saying, 'We have hustled this through. Now we find

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it is unworkable.' How did that Bill become unworkable? It was discussed threadbare. Why did it become unworkable within a short time? Why did the Government change their opinion so soon? When they introduced the draft rules in November, they had one opinion and within one month they have changed their opinion. I think that this kind of hustling through legislation pays no respect to the Upper House. In a democratic form of Government, the executive has to respect the legislature and the judiciary. How do they respect the legislature in hustling through this Bill? They should have taken the Bill to a select committee in the other House. The rules provide that if the Bill has not gone through a select committee of the other House, it may go through a select committee of this House. Nothing will be lost by having this matter examined by a select committee. It can be done in a day or two days. What is the effect of the amendment on the main Bill, on the public revenues and no other classes of people besides the zamindars? Let us consider all that calmly. If the Government are wise, they would accept my motion for a select committee in which they can put eminent members on the other side."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" And on which the hon. Member will refuse to work."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I have very little time to serve on a select committee. There are hon. Members on this side who will do better than myself in a select committee. They will find time to serve on it. I am sorry I have not been able to serve on any select committee though I have been requested many times. I do not mind the members of the Government party themselves forming the select committee. The whip is a barrister. But let us have a feeling that this is not a farce, that something is passed through the other house and it comes here, no notice is given to the members and within a few hours it is passed by a majority here. Sir, some of us were quite happy that this Council was going to be scrapped, because we have a poignant feeling that after all no useful purpose is served by the Council and that it is a farce and things are rushed through. The Government have a majority, but let them respect the legislature and make it useful in the public eye. At least let them go through the forms. I ask the Hon. Minister for Revenue, if he does not stand on false prestige, to accept my motion that the Bill be referred to a select committee of this House."

DR. SYED TAJUDIN :—" I second the motion."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949, be referred to a select committee '."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I cannot accept the motion. I oppose it. I have heard very carefully the speech of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. I am surprised that he should have made those remarks. I know, Sir, he is very

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consistent. He is consistent in opposing anything that comes from the Government. He can certainly claim consistency for that. I do not grudge it. He charged the Government with having no principles. I do not know what kind of principle he refers to. If it is the principle of opposing things for mere opposition's sake, we do not do it. That is not our principle.

"Sir, let me come to the point that has been raised by the hon. Member. I am surprised that he should say that very serious amendments have been proposed and that Government have changed their mind within two months after passing certain rules under section 40. May I ask the hon. Member who is a lawyer to go through the rules that were passed under section 40 in November? They were rules which gave an indication of the manner and method of payment of compensation and other things. The amendments that are now proposed are in pursuance of certain undertakings given on the floor of this House and the other House. I may just recall to his mind certain portions of the speech of the then Hon. Revenue Minister Mr. Kala Venkata Rao when the Leader of the Opposition interjected, 'What about the opinion of the Advocate-General of India?' The then Revenue Minister gave an estimate of Rs. 12½ crores. In the course of his speech he said that the Government proposed to pay Rs. 12½ crores as compensation. The question of payment of Rs. 12½ crores as compensation has come repeatedly before this House when the Bill was being considered and also before the other House and the Joint Select Committee. So the question is nothing new either to the Members of this House or the other House."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"It was Rs. 17½ crores when the matter was discussed and not Rs 12½ crores."

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"I should only like the hon. Member to go through the official proceedings which I have got here and which speak of Rs. 12½ crores. The amendment now only seeks to give effect to the assurance that was given on the floor of the House. In pursuance of that assurance, if the amount falls short of Rs. 12½ crores, the Government propose to pay the zamindars Rs. 12½ crores *pro rata*. That is the amendment."

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"The second amendment that is given here is also in pursuance of an assurance given to this Honourable House that in future when an amending Bill was brought forward, the lacuna in the Act that the Council had no powers to expect the rules made under the Act being brought forward before this House would be made up. The third amendment that is sought to be brought forward now is with regard to the question of payment of 50 per cent of compensation, on a rough estimate, as advance payment. There are also some other clauses which are consequential on these three basic principles of this amending Bill. Sir, the hon. Member raised the question that Government had no money and how did they propose to pay. Sir, I am prepared to answer that point. The Government propose to release some of the securities

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for payment of advance compensation to such of the estates as have already been taken over; and as regards the question of taking over other estates, it will be so regulated that they will be notified as and when the Government are in a position to pay the advance compensation as contemplated under the provisions of this Bill. That is how the Government propose to find the necessary money, and that aspect of it has been thoroughly examined not only in consultation with Finance department but also in consultation with the Government of India; and it is only in accordance with the views of the Finance department and of the Government of India that this legislation has now been brought forward.

"Sir, then the hon. Member also referred to my having promised to bring in an amending Bill; most probably he was referring to the reply I made to a charge made by one of the hon. Members in the other House that the Government were bringing in lots of amending Bills. I gave the assurance in that House that the Government would bring in amending Bills if they were necessary to do justice to the people. There is nothing wrong in bringing forward an amending Bill, and there is nothing wrong if that Bill is brought forward to do justice to the people. That is the only principle involved and there is nothing serious going to happen.

"Then the question was raised that the matter was thrust upon the House suddenly. You have rightly remarked, Sir, that this Bill was published long ago in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and I take it that the hon. Leader of the Opposition and the other hon. Members who are very diligent readers of the Government publications, would have read this Bill and certainly scrutinized it. I take it that the hon. Leader of the Opposition being a very studious lawyer, would have gone through that Bill received along with the official Gazette, and I say he cannot plead lack of notice."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"I must have at least 24 hours."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"That is why, Sir, I oppose this reference to a Select Committee; there is nothing here to go before a Select Committee; the principles are simple and there is nothing complicated about them. That is why I oppose the motion for reference to a Select Committee."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"My friend, the hon. Leader of the Opposition thought I would speak after you have put the motion. Anyhow, I think I can speak on the general principles of the Bill now."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"If you are speaking on the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, that can be disposed of first; and then we shall take up the general aspects of the Bill."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"My hon. friend, the Minister for Land Revenue twitted my Leader by saying that

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he was in receipt of the *Fort St. George Gazette* and as the Bill was published sometime ago in the Gazette, he must have had an opportunity of perusing the various clauses of the Bill. But may I remind my hon. friend the Revenue Minister that we are dealing with a Bill as sent up by the Legislative Assembly? My friend, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, could not anticipate that the Assembly would pass the Bill as presented by the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue. I think he is perfectly justified in saying that he had not enough time and that this House should be given every opportunity to examine the various provisions of the Bill in detail by referring it to the Select Committee. We do not at all question your discretion, Sir, in waiving notice for this Bill, but in the view of my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, various amendments have been introduced in this Bill, though the Bill appears to be innocuous. As a lawyer, he finds that this Bill introduces various principles which were not contemplated when the Bill was first introduced in this House. On the question of Rs. 12½ crores, I too was wondering how even the previous Minister for Land Revenue arrived at this figure."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"This motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee is only by way of amendment to the main motion. So, I think you can go on even by way of general discussion. In that view, I think you can move the adjournment motion also."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—"Unfortunately, Sir, as you are aware, the Members of the Opposition refused to take part in the later stages of the discussion on the Zamindari Abolition Bill owing to a hitch we had with the then Revenue Minister. Even then, if we were here, we would have asked hon. Revenue Minister to tell us—and perhaps others here asked him—how he arrived at the Rs. 12½ crores, on what basis he arrived at that figure. My hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, said: 'What is this approximate figure of Rs. 12½ crores, how did you arrive at it'. He put that question because the Government want to give half of it immediately. That is the only point now, and there is nothing wrong in his asking for that information. I think the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue need not have felt so much offended at his asking for that piece of information. We all of us repeat and ask, how did you arrive at this Rs. 12½ crores. As a matter of fact, the Government themselves feel that the estimate may be wrong and they have also inserted a proviso to the effect that if it is to be more, they will distribute the extra *pro rata*. That shows they are really not sure of their estimate of it. There is also another provision which the Minister for Land Revenue read from the Statement of Objects and Reasons in introducing this Bill. The first sentence runs like this: 'Under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, as soon as estate is notified, the estate has to be surveyed and then settled in accordance with ryotwari principles and until these operations are completed, compensation cannot be paid to the

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claimants'. Sir, the survey and settlement operations are expected to take some years. Was not the then Revenue Minister aware that always these survey and settlement operations generally take some years? Why was it not thought of? That is because we lack administrative experience, and we do not take the advice of those who have administrative experience. Do you mean to say the Secretariat would not have pointed out that it would be difficult to complete survey and settlement operations in a few months and that it would take a large number of years? This amendment is intended to rectify a mistake which they have now found out. They ought to have found it out long ago, and this provision that they want now, to give half-compensation, should have been made in the original Bill itself. The fact of the matter is that this Government did not want it give any compensation at all to the zamindars till the survey and settlement operations were completed; and it is because they are forced now by circumstances to give this half-compensation that this Bill is being brought forward. I know the Government say that their sense of equity and justice has made them change their opinion and they want to go to the help of these zamindars, some of whom might have said they were starving. But why not say that? Or they can say 'we find now that the Government of India want us not to leave these zamindars in the lurch and they want us to go to their assistance'.

"Another fact which I want to mention is that at the time this Bill came up first, when the then Revenue Minister moved this, I was one of those who questioned him to show us how he would find the money for this compensation; I was one of those who protested strongly that this Government had no business to touch the Revenue reserves for the purpose of liquidating the zamindars. The Revenue reserves have been built up for the purpose of undertaking schemes for the economic uplift of the whole Province. But here it is now contended perhaps that this Abolition of Zamindaris Act and the releasing of the tenants from the clutches of the zamindars is one of the measures of economic development of the country and so the Revenue reserves can be utilized for this purpose—that perhaps must be the argument. Supposing that the survey and settlement operations are not completed for two years more and the Government of India put pressure, or the zamindars themselves put pressure on this Government, then the Government perhaps will come forward and say 'we are willing to pay the full compensation out of the Revenue Reserve Fund'. The Revenue Reserve Fund has been built up by some people and we shall not waste it in this manner. My hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, suggested the collection of some amount from those who will be benefited by this legislation. Sir, everybody seems to be touchy about that question; they are prepared to ask the poor pattadar to give double the land revenue that he is paying and treat half of it as loan for the purpose of using it for development purposes; but so far as the zamindari tenant is concerned, he is to them a God, he should not be touched. I do not know why so much concern there is for the zamindari

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tenant alone and not for the poor ryotwari tenant. We are unable to appreciate this. The zamindari tenant is going to get valuable rights; are not tenants under all zamindars in every part of the country being made to pay something towards the acquisition of those rights? Why should the general taxpayer's money be used for the purpose of acquiring rights for a particular class of people who are themselves capable of acquiring those rights by paying that compensation—that is my point. And my point is strengthened by the fact that most of the ryots who are getting this right are not actual cultivators. I challenged the Hon. Revenue Minister to give me the figures of people who will be actual cultivators who will be benefited by this Zamindari Abolition Act. He was not able to do so; and yet he twitted us, as he is an adept in doing that; because he had no figures. If at least the actual cultivator who has been rackrented for so many years now is to be benefited, there may be some justification for putting our hands into the Revenue Reserves and releasing the tenants from the clutches of the zamindars; but it is the middlemen who have been the rent collectors who will be benefited by this legislation. It is true they are the most influential people in exercising votes. Is it for the purpose of pleasing this class of people who have political power in their hands that you are going to use the Revenue Reserves and also to satisfy the zamindars who have been clamouring that you are going to deprive them of their estates without compensation? Sir, it is not fair. At the time of the passing of the Zamindari Abolition Act, we warned that the people who were proceeding with the legislation were not anticipating the difficulties they would come across. The very difficulties which we pointed then are being encountered by the Government to-day, and this Bill itself is a glaring instance of that.

“ Sir, I wish the Hon. Revenue Minister had agreed to refer this Bill to Select Committee. After all, what is the object of the motion of the Leader of the Opposition? It is to examine whether there are any other lacunae in the piece of legislation that is now introduced and to set them right. I have rarely served on a Select Committee, Sir; but my experience in the Select Committee on the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill tells me that if people properly apply themselves to the task entrusted to them, a great deal of good can be done in the Select Committee stage by pointing out and rectifying certain defect which might have escaped the attention of the draftsmen. The object of my friend is to see whether there are any other provisions inconsistent with the provisions now introduced or with the existing provisions which can be set right. That is the purpose why my hon. friend wanted to introduce this motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

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“ Then there is one point about which I have given notice of an amendment to which I would refer. Some zamindars—I do not say most of the zamindars—are indebted to others. Is it

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not the intention of the Government that when this compensation is given—whether it is half or one-fourth or full it does not matter—that the creditors should be paid full for the amounts they have advanced to the zamindars? Should it not be a first charge, at least next to pishkush and other dues to the Government, because it is a contract between the zamindar and the creditor and because he had the property he believed that the zamindar would be exercising his unrestricted rights regarding alienation, mortgage and other rights over the property. In cases where the creditor has advanced money to the zamindar—some of them may be impecunious, but it is not our concern, should he not get his money back, at least what he has paid, especially when the zamindar gets his compensation? Is he to be treated along with other maintenance holders or under-tenure holders and be given only half? It is not fair to the creditors who went to the help of these zamindars. The creditor believed that the zamindar had absolute rights in the property and it is not fair that he should be treated in this manner.

“ I find that it is the tribunal that has to decide. This is only a common transaction between the borrower and the lender. In such a case, how can you oust the jurisdiction of the courts and invest it in the tribunal? With the help of my hon. Friend, Dr. John, all these points could have been set right in the Select Committee. Let it consist of only lawyers who know to argue both sides of a case. Let them set right matters so that the interests of all concerned may be preserved and no injustice is done to any one so that the zamindar may be enabled to enjoy half compensation that is paid to him at least without further troubles from these creditors and others. With these few words, I support the motion for reference to Select Committee.”

* SRI A. GOVINDACHARYULU :—“ Sir, I was really surprised to hear my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao and his arguments. I was one of the members on the Zamindari Bill Select Committee and this Bill was discussed and discussed for days and days together not only in Madras at the Select Committee but in Delhi also by the High Command. I think no other Bill than this was discussed so clearly and in detail by so many people including many experts. I was one of those people who fought tooth and nail against some of its clauses and I dare say that the zamindars have now got what they actually wanted at the time of the Select Committee. In the Select Committee the zamindari representatives in thier evidence, as well as many members of the Select Committee wanted some compensation to be paid in advance and they wanted us to see that the 12½ crores compensation should be worked out and that it should not be less than that in any way in working out the details and the rules thereof. That is all that the zamindars wanted. Now I must congratulate the present Revenue Minister for his boldness and courage in bringing forward this amending Bill. We really wanted then, not on behalf of the zamindars but on behalf of justice and equity that some compensation should be given in

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advance, because the Congress stood for co-operative commonwealth and not for expropriation of properties and rights of people. We want good distribution of wealth among all classes of people and so the Zamindari Act has come. Somebody said that this is Zamindari Acquisition Act and not abolition Act. We need not worry about the word acquisition or abolition. Whatever it is, the question is that the zamindars from whom we are taking the property should be paid and that they should be paid adequate also.

"Another point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, is what right has the Government got to pay the Zamindars from the general revenues of the Government. I may tell him that because the Government has been now acquiring the revenues that are now being paid to the zamindars from the zamindari ryot. The revenue will hereafter be paid directly to the Government revenues by the zamindari ryot. So, now when the Government will be acquiring the revenue from the zamindari ryot, the Government should pay compensation to zamindars from the revenues of the Government.

"My hon. Friend raised another point. That is, it is the middleman that is being benefited. In the ryotwari area, also the middleman is the proprietor and the actual cultivator of the tiller of the soil is not the proprietor to-day. Whether you call it socialism or anything else, since Congress stands for the principle of co-operative commonwealth, we do not think of the abolition of property rights as they stand to-day. We only want to elevate the ryot from rack-renting and so on. That is all which the Congress stands for. There may be certain defects in the Zamindari Act, but they are now sought to be rectified by this amending Bill so far as the zamindars are concerned. I would have been glad if the Hon. the Revenue Minister brought in certain other amendments also for which we fought, particularly the question of restoring the rights of the judiciary over the question of payment of compensation and other things. In the Zamindari Act, if I remember aright, so far as the powers of the High Court were concerned, they were removed, that is, to sit in judgment over the decision of Tribunals. If this also is restored, I think the Act will be a perfect one and if it is done, of course, it will be a welcome thing. The hon. Members on the Opposition said that when it was less compensation that was proposed they wanted more and when it is proposed to give what the zamindars wanted they now say that much has to be paid. And when we say that the Government should pay it, they say that the ryots should be made to pay. That is all. They always try to speak something which is not good. They must have something to say on important Bills like this. So, there is no point whatsoever about the objections raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao. I whole-heartedly support the Bill and I hope further amendments also will shortly be placed before this House in regard to the judiciary and other defects which we have shown at the time of the discussions over the original Bill."

The amendment was put and lost.

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* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Sir, I move under rule 63 that the discussion of this Bill be adjourned or postponed to another date... I do not want to make any speech on this, because I have already mentioned why we should not be hustled in this manner. Moreover, this Bill was passed only yesterday in the other House and it came into our hands only at 10 o'clock to-day. Most of us are busy with other matters also and so we have no time to study this complicated Bill. There are also amendments to it and they have to be studied. Therefore, we must be given sufficient time to consider all the aspects of the Bill.

“ Again, Sir, the Ministers seem to forget what happened a year ago, in November 1948, when we were discussing the original Bill. The then Hon. Revenue Minister said at the time that the total compensation payable under the Act would be about 17 crores. Here I have got a copy of the speech he made, but to-day his successor says, it is only 12½ crores. Perhaps the idea struck him just two months back or just a few days ago.

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ He referred to the speech of Mr. Kala Venkata Rao made when he introduced the Bill.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ It is 12 plus 5, 17 crores. I think, Sir, they are not omitting the inams from this compensation, because everything is there.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Anyhow the amount has come down.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ This 12½ crores, is it merely for the zamindars or for the inamdars also, or is it for both? I hope the Hon. Minister has to say that. However, that is only by the way. They forget what has happened. I say, give us some little time, whatever might have been the position a few days ago, you thought that under the conditions then existing you might get through this Bill to-day, although it might have been passed yesterday by the Assembly, I say now the conditions have changed and we are sitting. I do not see why they should rush through this Bill. Let us have time. Last time we non-co-operated with the further discussion of this Bill at a particular stage on the ground that the usefulness of this House, the dignity and the prestige of the House were taken away by section 40, according to which the rules will be passed by the Assembly and not by the Council. Then we non-co-operated and walked out. The Hon. Minister then said that he would bring in an amendment, although he would not agree to the amendment then, though they could have done it, because it was a matter of prestige and that we are only a post-office and no amendment could be passed in this House, the reason being, if any amendment is passed here, they must go back before the other House. Sir, the very history of this Congress Government during the last three years is, that not one amendment suggested by us has been allowed as an amendment when any Bill was discussed, but later on they accepted our suggestions and brought

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forward amending Bills in respect of them. So, Sir, even though they would take the trouble of bringing in amending Bills, they would not allow any amendments in this House, thereby telling us in plain language, look here, this is a post-office, you can shout and talk as you like, but we can, by a majority, pass this Bill through. Sir, I ask, is it in keeping with the dignity of this House that such an attitude should be shown by the Government time after time, section after section? They now say, we want to amend the Bill, the Council must be consulted but they would not agree to any particular amendment, though they could have easily accepted such an amendment even then. To-day, if the attitude of the Government is the same, namely, that this House is merely a post-office, there is some shouting going on, there is some speech-making and waste of time, it does not matter, we shall have the Bill passed in the Assembly and passed in this House whatever may be the reasonableness of the amendments, we would not have any amendments in this Council. I say, it is much better, more dignified and more in keeping with our self-respect that we take no part as such in the proceedings of the Council. If that is the attitude of the Government and the party that supports them, it is a very serious matter. I do not see any reason why this should be rushed through. The other day, we suggested that the resolution regarding the High Court might be taken up on another day that is to-day. But the Government said that they wanted to communicate the resolution to the Government of India and we co-operated with them and even regarding the adjournment motion though we had a good case in that the Government did not stick to their original undertaking to consult the House before they made any recommendations to the Government regarding the partition question. I cut short my observations as the Leader of the House explained the circumstances. We always co-operate with the Government. The Upper House is a dignified body and not always in opposition to Governmental measures. How many times have we supported the Government in the interests of the public? But when they bring in measures not in the interests of the public, we must have freedom to say boldly and without fear or favour that the Government are wrong and they should correct themselves. Why should not we be given the opportunity to make this House a useful forum for discussion of Bills: are we to be merely a post-office and are we to waste our time in merely talking and talking over all Bills? What after all is the ground to rush through this Bill without giving Members time to consider the Bill and the nature of the amendments they must give in respect of the Bill? A motion under rule 63, would enable us to have time in which to study the Bill, its implications, and the manner in which it could be improved and the amendments to be moved for that purpose. I am sure hon. members of the House had no time to move any amendments to the Bill. Sir, you are the protector of the usefulness of the House—I would not say the prestige and dignity of the House; let us not be hustled. That will afford an opportunity for us to give suggestions to the Hon. Minister though he may not accept them. Though he may not accept them on the floor of the House, he

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might bring another Bill after some time. Sir, you would remember that amending Bills have been brought in based on the suggestions made in the House and I myself have been complimented on several occasions on being responsible for the suggestions embodied in such Bills. Although this House might not exist after some time, we have a right to ask the Government to allow us opportunities so long as we exist to study the Bills before us and do our duty to the public. Nobody would mourn and I for one will never mourn the extinction of this House having regard to the way this House has been treated by the Government on several occasions. I would only think it is so much of time saved for me which I could devote to something more useful. It is now four o'clock and I have many amendments and am I to be hushed by being allowed two minutes for each amendment to enable the Government to pass the Bill? If that is the idea, it is much better not to move amendments not to take part in the discussion of the Bill and allow the Government to have their own way because they have a majority. This should not be the case and I protest against the way in which without any necessity whatsoever the Government want to rush through this measure."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I second the motion."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am not inclined to cut down the hon. Member's speech on his amendments."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I may not move them at all, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The motion is that under rule 63, the consideration of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949, be postponed to another date."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Mr. President, Sir, let me first assure hon. Members that the Government do not treat this House as a post-office. They do not have any such intention nor did they have such intention at any time; we know the value of the advice that we get from the Members of this House and the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that we have very great respect for the views of the Members of this House and he himself did say that the Government sometimes accepted his advice and came forward later on with amendments. I should like to take this opportunity of assuring him that no such idea lies behind the mind of the Government to disrespect this House or any member of the House. I do not see any reason why the hon. Leader of the Opposition should feel so hurt about this matter. As I have already said, we have brought forward the amendments in pursuance of the assurances we have already given and there is no question of rushing through any legislation in this House as I am not bringing any new principles to be incorporated in the Bill; these are all things discussed threadbare on the floor of this House and this is only to implement what was discussed at great length before. I do not think that the hon. Leader of the Opposition would press his motion for postponement but he would enable the Government to go through this Bill to-day."

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MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The question is that the consideration of the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949, be postponed to another date.”

The motion was lost.

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Mr. President, I think I have an opportunity to speak on the general principles of the Bill. Let me take the sentence in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to the effect that the survey and settlement operations will take some years and that it is, therefore, considered desirable that some provision should be made for payment of some portion of the compensation in advance at once without waiting for the completion of these operations. I want to tell the House and through the House the public of Madras how the Government of Madras last year thought differently then but within one year they found out they could not do it but that that would take some years. When did they discover that they would take many years; is this a Government who have no officers, no equipment and no means to find out last year itself that it would take some years? I say, Sir, that the reason given here is not the correct reason at all, the real reason being that they have been asked as I see from certain discussions which took place in the other House, by certain highly placed persons in the Government of India to pay half of the compensation now. Why cannot they state that certain Congress leaders have asked them to do it and therefore, they are amending the Bill? Is it creditable for any Government, who claim to be an efficient Government, to say within a year after the main enactment had been passed, that they had found out that it would take many years to complete the survey and settlement operations? Last year, the then Revenue Minister said that the compensation involved would be 17 crores but now the figure of 12½ crores has been mentioned. How did he make this assessment; what have they done before arriving at this estimate; have they gone through any records? How did the figure come down from 17 crores to 12½ crores of rupees? Is it that some agreement was reached by which the zamindars said that they would take twelve and a half crores? I ask why was it not possible for them to honestly take this House and the other House into confidence and tell them and the public that they had come to some agreement with the representatives of the zamindars under the advice given by leaders in Delhi that the zamindars should be given that amount and why should this scant courtesy be shown to the Houses of Legislature by telling them something which is not true? There is a provision by which, if on the basis of the original Act the amount is not Rs. 12½ crores but less but still, the zamindars will be paid that amount which is in excess of the actual amount. At the time the original Act was passed and when the basis of compensation was under discussion, there were speeches made in the House to the effect that the zamindars were not really the proprietors of the soil and they lost nothing by the zamindaris being taken over and so they should not be paid any sort of compensation at all. Then the Legislature fixed the basis of compensation and both the Houses passed it and it became law and now the

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Hon. the Minister tells us that he wants an amending Act under which although on the basis fixed under the original Act, the compensation would be less than 12½ crores—it may be eight, six or four crores of rupees—yet the excess over that amount to make up the 12½ crores of rupees will be paid. I ask, 'Sir, why not the Minister tell us.' I expect that the amount on the basis originally fixed will be eleven crores and we wish to pay them 12½ crores all the same but 6½ crores now? Can the Government say that they would pay them much more than they deserve on the basis of the compensation fixed by both the Houses in the Bill which was passed by them? What is the answer of the Government? Would it be creditable to any Government to say that we fix such and such a sum as compensation to be paid now, on rough and ready method, for which there is no basis? And then Government say, at the end of the survey and settlement operations if there is anything to be paid to them, they will pay them then. Now, Sir, is it a gift of public money to be paid to the zamindars? Government have passed a Bill before, under which they have fixed a compensation on some basis. Let them follow that basis. If according to that only six crores are to be paid, I do not know why public revenue should be depleted by another six and a half crores. Let them remember that according to them—and that is Mr. Kala Venkata Rao said when he introduced the Bill—the zamindars are not proprietors of the soil to be entitled to any full compensation but are only collectors of revenue. If Government want to spend this 6½ crores, are there not landless agricultural labourers among whom it can be distributed? Are they not our kith and kin? The other day I said that there are two enemies to the peace, prosperity and good order in this Province. One is the Communists with their subversive activities and the other the Government who plough the field for the Communists. Cannot Government look to the welfare of the poor tiller of the soil and distribute these few crores among them? Sir, is this a popular Government representing the people of this Province? I ask, why this solicitude for the zamindar to pay him 6½ crores now and the balance, if any, afterwards? The real truth is the Hon. Minister wants to hide the fact that Government have come to an agreement with the zamindars that the latter should take 12½ crores, whatever the basis of compensation may be! Sir, I cannot understand this arrangement. Why did not Government bring in the original Bill itself this advance payment of compensation? Sir, I have never heard of any Government bringing an amending Bill for payment of advance payment of compensation. If Government want to pay zamindars something more than what was intended to be paid them in the original Bill, let them say so. But have they said anywhere the reason for this? Have they said the reason in this House? Have they said the reason in the other House; or have they said it from the public platform? No, they have not said it anywhere. Sir, when discussing the original Bill they have decided that the zamindars should not be paid full compensation; and they have fixed the compensation on some specific basis even at that stage. Let them stick to that basis. I have never heard

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of any legislature going back on its previous decision in this manner—Sir, my hon. Friends on the other side, or rather, as per the direction of the Speaker in the other House, I should say, the hon. Gentlemen on the other side”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ You may say, ‘ hon. Friends on the other side ’.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ My hon. Friends on the other side will vote for the passing of this Bill; but in doing so, let them care for their political future. Let them remember that the Bill they now seek to pass has no policy or principle behind it. What is the reason given by them for giving 12½ crores. According to them, it is this : it will take a long time to complete survey and settlement operations. But has the Hon. Minister told us from where does he expect to get this money? And then, who computed this 12½ crores compensation; for during the discussion of the original Bill, I think, it was said in the other House that the compensation would amount to less than nine and a half crores.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I think the hon. Member has sufficiently stressed this point. He may proceed to his next point.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ So, I say Sir, the real reason for this Bill is something else, and the reason mentioned in the statement of Objects and Reasons is intended to cover up that reason. Sir, as per this Bill, one half of the compensation is to be deposited before the tribunal; Now, Sir, Government have entered into a pact with the zamindars to pay them 12½ crores.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ In the original Act also there is provision made for interim payment.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Yes, Sir; but nowhere is it stated that 12½ crores should be paid, of which 6½ crores should be paid in cash. I say it is an unholy pact Government have formed with the zamindars behind this legislature. The Hon. Minister for Revenue has been unable to say wherefrom he expects to find this money. Are Government going to dip into the revenue reserve fund? Sir, when they are unable to find money for Grow More Food, for irrigation works, for sinking wells, for supplying electricity to ryots, for so many public health activities, are they justified in dipping into revenue reserve fund? Let them not do as they like? I say, Sir, it would be a crowning misfortune for this Province if this Bill were to be passed; and this Government will get into the greatest disrepute. So I tell them, let them consider once, twice and thrice before passing this Bill and putting it into operation. This is a piece of legislation most injurious to the Province and is inconsistent with the principle of the original Act, as is evident from the statement of Objects and Reasons. Never in the history of any legislature has a measure been brought of this sort and rushed through. So I protest against this Bill and I oppose it to the best of my ability with all the emphasis at my command.”

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* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am indeed thankful to the Leader of the Opposition for giving this advice as to what will happen to us in the future, if we pass this legislation. Sir, we know how to take care of our future; let the Leader of the Opposition take care of his own future. (Laughter.) Sir, he was harping on the 12½ crores and was asking how this was arrived at and so on. I have got with me the official report of the Madras Legislative Council, dated Monday, the 22nd November 1948, wherein it will be seen that Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, my predecessor in office has said this on the floor of this House—

‘ We would satisfy our feelings of justice and equity in respect of this matter and therefore we have arrived at the figure of 12½ crores as compensation to be paid to the zamindars.’

So, Sir, this is nothing new, and so none of the hon. Members on the opposite side need get excited as though suddenly the Revenue Minister is throwing away 12½ crores just to satisfy somebody. I have read out to the House what my predecessor in office has said on the floor of this House, and so I hope there will not be any more controversy about it.

“ Then, Sir, the question was asked, ‘ what will happen to those people who have no money to do this, to do that and so on?’ And we were accused of throwing good money and all that sort of thing. Sir, I have already said in my opening remarks that in this piece of legislation we propose to give zamindars a certain portion of compensation, and then after the survey and settlement operations are over, if it is found that there is something more to be paid to them as compensation, it will be paid to them. Sir, at first it was thought that it was unnecessary to bring this legislation. We examined the question whether we could get this done under the rules framed under section 40, and it was found that it would be not correct, and so we were advised by legal advisers that it is necessary to bring in an amending Bill. Hence it is that this Bill has been necessitated and brought forward. Then, Sir, Dr. John asked, ‘ did not this Government know before about the delay likely to be caused in the matter of survey and settlement operations, and why should they not have provided for this advance payment in the original Bill?’ Sir, when the Bill was brought forward, people said that it was an expropriatory Bill, and now when we bring this Bill to pay compensation, those very hon. Members try to out-Herod Herod and speak in terms more than our socialist friends. I hope they practice it in the lives and not merely speak of it in this House! ”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Is it in order, Sir, for an Hon. Minister to cast personal remarks against an hon. Member that he should practise in life what he says here? ”

* THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ I am very happy to hear that he practises. (Laughter.) Sir, I have already explained there is nothing particularly strange or revolutionary

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or something new in the provisions of this Bill, and so I request the Bill may be taken into consideration at once."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.' "

The motion was declared lost as the ' Ayes ' were negligible and ' Noes ' were very prominent.

[At this stage Sri S. B. Adityan entered the Council Chamber and took his seat.]

MR. PRESIDENT (After a pause) :—" Do you want a poll? I don't think so much time is required to say that."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Evidently, Government are not sure of their strength, and that is why they are taking such a long time to make up their mind."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know the ruling of the Chair? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member was absent and I am not here to repeat my ruling after I have given it once, whenever the hon. Member wants."

DR. P. S. SRINIVASAN :—" I demand a poll."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is—

' that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), as passed by the Legislative Assembly be taken into consideration at once.' "

[The Hon. Sri J. L. P. Roche Victoria entered the Chamber and took his seat after the question was put.]

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the Hon. Minister has to keep out."

[The Hon. Sri J. L. P. Roche Victoria left the Chamber.]

The motion was put and carried.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member Dr. John has given notice of an amendment to this clause."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, we have decided not to take further part in the discussion of this Bill. But in deference to the Chair, we are not walking out. I do not propose to move any amendment or take further part in connexion with this Bill."

Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I move—

' that the Bill be passed into law.'

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"I am sorry that the Leader of the Opposition found it necessary to take the attitude that he took. As I have already explained, the Government do not mean to take away the privileges of any of the Members of this House including the Opposition. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will not mind what has happened. I hope that he has taken up his present attitude not as a protest against the provisions of the Bill but perhaps because he felt hurt that adequate time was not given."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"Both."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—"I take it that so far as the provisions of this Bill are concerned, he is thoroughly satisfied."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—"No."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"The question is—

'that the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), be passed into law.' "

The motion was carried.

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I am very sorry to remark that whatever the other faults of the Government might be, I for my part am not satisfied with the way in which the Government and the other Members of their party attended to the work that was going on in this House especially when the Opposition was so strongly objecting to the motion. I would have been perfectly justified in declaring the motion lost, adjourning the House and walking out. Because I knew that the Members did not anticipate such a situation and in deference to the importance of the subject, I waited for some time. I was surprised that even the Whips were not present and nobody challenged my decision immediately. I have been telling the Government more than once that if sufficient voices are not raised on their side, I would have no compunction to decide against their motion. I hope the Government will take a lesson from this. Especially when the Leader of the Opposition was so vehement, I expected the Whips to be vigilant and the Members to be in their places. (Sir S. B. Adityan rose to speak.) I do not want any discussion on this matter. I am mentioning this for future guidance, and I hope that such things will not take place in future."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Friday, the 20th January 1950.

V.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

The Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Amendment Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1950), as passed by the Assembly and received therefrom in the Council.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 97 asked by Sri M. Narayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th January 1950, page 1036 supra.]

97 Q.—(a) whether many of the villages in the Province become isolated, especially in the rainy season, as they have not even earthen roads to link up to the main roads;

(b) whether the Government have under consideration in their road programme to provide every village with a good earthen road to link up to the major road;

(c) If so, in what time it is proposed to complete the programme; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Highways Department have not paid any attention to the construction of roads in panchayat and non-panchayat areas?

A.—(a) At present many villages in the Province do not have access roads. Information as to how many get isolated in the rainy season is not available.

(b) & (c) The Post-war Road Development programme drawn up by the Government aims at providing an adequate net work of roads so that every village with a population of 500 people or more is served with a village road such that no such village is more than two miles from a main road in thickly populated areas and five miles in thinly populated areas. The total mileage of new roads proposed to be formed under the comprehensive programme of Post-war Road Development is about 18,000. Out of this, about a length of 9,500 miles is proposed to be formed in the first quinquennium ending 31st March 1952 and the remainder thereafter. These roads are being formed by the District Boards with grants-in-aid from Government and the Highways Department is the engineering agency to execute them. The completion of these programmes (5 years and 25 years) depend on the availability of funds mainly. Apart from the Post-war Road Development Programme, District Boards and the major panchayats have separate village road programmes approved by Government in the case of District Boards and by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards in the case of panchayats. Half grants are ordinarily sanctioned for works taken up for execution under these programmes and also for approved schemes in the case of minor Panchayat Boards. Works in these programmes are those not included in the Post-war Road Development Programme. The village road programme supplements the Post-war Road Development Programmes.

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As regards villages with a population of less than 500, there is no special provision in the Post-war Road Development Programme for providing them with access roads but quite a good number of them lie on or very close to the roads existing or proposed under the programme. It is anticipated that the present programme will serve nearly 95 per cent of the rural population.

- (d) No distinction is made between panchayat and non-panchayat areas in regard to provision of roads. As stated in the answer to clauses (b) and (c) the Post-war Road Development Programme aims at providing an adequate net work of roads so that every village with a population of 500 and more is served with a village road to connect with the nearest main road. The formation of further roads, streets and lanes, etc., required in each village is not contemplated in the Post-war Road Plan. These are to be formed by the Panchayat Boards in panchayat areas and by District Boards in non-panchayat areas. The Highways Department has to prepare plans and estimates for the works, if required by the Panchayat Board or the District Board. In the case of the District Boards, the Highways Department will execute them but in the case of Panchayat Board works, the Panchayat Board ordinarily executes them through contractors and the Highways Department only checkmeasures the work. Where however technical supervision is required the Highways Department executes them or supervises them. The employment of special staff for preparing plans and estimates for Panchayat Board works and for supervising their execution is being sanctioned wherever necessary.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 100 asked by Sri M. Narayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th January 1950, page 1038 supra.]

INSPECTION REPORTS OF SRI G. RAMACHANDRAN, M.L.A., ON THE FIRKA DEVELOPMENT WORK IN CERTAIN FIRKAS AND CENTRES.

Letter from Sri G. RAMACHANDRAN, Secretary, A.I.V.I.A. (Wardha), to the Provincial Firka Development Officer, Madras, dated camp Madras, the 18th May 1949.

Herewith is a brief interim report from me on Firka Development work as I have studied it in four typical firkas. Due to my own other engagements it has not been possible yet for me to cover any other firka. In these four firkas I visited 43

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villages in the course of a tour of more than fortnight. The four firkas I visited and where I studied all the various items of work going on in them under the Firka Development Department, were—

- (1) The Tiruvallur Firka in the Chingleput district.
- (2) The Tirumangalam Firka in the Mathurai district.
- (3) The Palladam Firka in the Coimbatore district.
- (4) The Avanashi Firka (Intensive Khadi Centre) in the Coimbatore district.

I have divided this brief interim report, for convenience, into three parts, namely, (1) Features of the work in the four firkas, (2) Impressions of the work, and (3) My suggestions for future work.

If and when I am able to visit the other firkas, I shall write a fuller and final report on the whole of the Firka Development work in the Province to help you to assess the work so far done and to plan further work.

BRIEF INTERIM REPORT ON FIRKA DEVELOPMENT WORK.

PART I.

Features of Firka Development work in 43 villages visited.

The following is the list of the villages I visited with the dates of the visits:—

Serial number and villages.	Firkas.	Date.
1 Tirur village and Tirur cheri.	Tiruvallur Firka (Chingleput district).	1st April 1949.
2 Kakalur village and Kakalur cheri.	Do.	2nd April 1949.
3 Ikkadu village	Do.	Do.
4 Kilanur village	Do.	Do.
5 Chittathur village	Do.	Do.
6 Karaikeni village ..	Tirumangalam Firka (Mathurai district)	5th April 1949.
7 Kallupatti village ..	Do.	6th April 1949.
8 Silarpatti village ..	Do.	8th April 1949.
9 Nedungulam village ..	Do.	Do.
10 Kilakottai village ..	Do.	Do.
11 Melaicottai village ..	Do.	Do.
12 Kamatchipuram village.	Do.	Do.
13 Arasapatti village ..	Do.	Do.
14 Viraperumalpuram village.	Do.	Do.
15 Rengapalaiyam village.	Do.	9th April 1949.

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Serial number and villages.	Firkas.	Date.
16 Kundathur village	Tirumangalam Firka (Mathurai district).	9th April 1949.
17 Kottanipatti village ..	Do.	Do.
18 Muthulingapuram .. village.	Do.	Do.
19 Retripatti village ..	Do.	Do.
20 Venkatachalapuram village.	Do.	Do.
21 Semmipalaiyam village.	Palladam Firka (Coimbatore district).	18th April 1949.
22 Manickpuram village.	Do.	Do.
23 Kalivelampatti village.	Do.	Do.
24 Samigoundanpalaiyam village.	Do.	19th April 1949.
25 Arakkulam village ..	Do.	Do.
26 Iyyampalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
27 Panickempattai village.	Do.	Do.
28 Vedugupalaiyam Pudur village.	Do.	20th April 1949.
29 Pethampalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
30 Nallurpalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
31 Venkatapuram village.	Do.	Do.
32 Vadugupalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
33 Chidambaram village.	Do.	Do.
34 Piliappampalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
35 Vadugappalaiyam village.	Avanashi Firka (Coim- batore district) (Inten- sive Khadi Centre).	21st April 1949.
36 Cheyur village ..	Do.	Do.
37 Salaipalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
38 Suripalaiyam village ..	Do.	Do.
39 Perumanallor village.	Do.	23rd April 1949.
40 Muttiankinar village ..	Do.	Do.
41 Ittiveerampalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
42 Velayudhanpalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.
43 Semmimalaipalaiyam village.	Do.	Do.

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General remarks.—The above four Firkas of Tiruvallur in the Chingleput district, Tirumangalam in the Mathurai district, Palladam in the Coimbatore district and the Intensive Khadi Centre in Avanashi in the Coimbatore district were selected for the first round of visits as four typical Firkas. The Tiruvallur Firka is one of the weak Firkas, the Tirumangalam Firka is one of the strong Firkas, the Palladam Firka is an average Firka and the Avanashi Firka is an intensive Khadi Firka. These four Firkas thus give some idea of Firka Development work in the Province as a whole in various stages of development and they portray in miniature what is going on throughout the Province.

At Veerapandi, near Tiruppur, in the Jannalal Vidyalaya run by the Tamil Nad, All-India Spinners' Association, I spent a week with all the Firka Development Officers assembled there for a three weeks' training camp. There I carefully went into the reports of work in all the various Firkas of the Province and thus obtained a detailed picture of what was going on in all the Firkas. That picture only confirmed my impression that what I had seen in the four Firkas I had visited was more or less the pattern of the work going on in the other Firkas. At the Veerapandi Training Camp, I took detailed classes and elicited full information from all the Firka Development Officers under training. Therefore, though I have called this only a brief interim report, the facts contained in it and the suggestions made in it should be of some value assessing the work that is being done and in planning for the future development of the work in the Province.

It will be seen that I was able to visit and study the work in 43 villages in the four firkas. I do not want to give my detailed impressions about every single item of work I saw in the 43 villages. I would rather give my impression of the work of each Firka as a whole and then point out what are strong and the weak points in each Firka. Otherwise, I shall be lost in a maze of details.

1. *The work in the Tiruvallur Firka in the Chingleput district.*—The Tiruvallur Firka is important because it is near Madras and it is likely that many of those interested in studying Firka Development work might go to this firka as it is easily accessible from Madras.

The Firka Development Officer is an old Congressman. Sri Parthasarathi Ayyangar, B.A., B.L. He is mentally an enthusiast and earnest about his work. But his age and health stand in the way of quick and vigorous work and of adequate travelling about. I had the clear impression that he was, therefore, sitting tight on the few centres of work already started and on some items of work already done without taking the work to more and more villages. From talking to a number of people, I have also got the impression that the District Collector, who is apparently taking no interest worth the name in the work, does not like him. Three Grama Sevaks I met were doing good work in their own areas. But they were not getting enough guidance from the

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Firka Development Officer or the Regional Firka Development Officer. The Firka requires a more active and energetic Firka Development Officer and more active guidance in the day-to-day work from the Regional Firka Development Officer.

I visited Tirur, Kakalur, Ikkadu, Kilanur and Chittathur villages and the cherries attached to the first two. I gave two full days to these visits and went round and saw every item of work going on. Here are my remarks, in general, on what I saw.

Sanitation work which according to Gandhiji is the first step in village reconstruction, is not satisfactory. No systematic sanitation work is being done in the villages. There is, of course, some scrappy work. Such things as the making of soak pits or construction of village drainage (as I saw in the Tirumangalam Firka) are not going on anywhere in a systematic way. I saw no community latrines or any real attempt at compost manure-making. Khadi production is almost nil. Balanced cultivation and improved agriculture are not yet in the picture.

Easier items of work have been taken up. Reading rooms and village libraries have been opened in some places. Some good wells have been dug. Some new buildings which might serve as adult education centres have been put up. Some propaganda work has also been done. Grama Seva Sanghams have been organized in the villages I visited. This has brought enthusiastic young men into the work and they co-operate with the firka Development Officer and the Grama Sevaks in what little work is going on. I met a number of such young men and it was good to see that they were taking pride and interest in such work as sanitation and village libraries and reading rooms. All this is good work so far as it goes.

What surprised me in the Tiruvallur Firka was that even with the little work going on, there was enthusiasm in the villagers to co-operate with the Government. For the first time, villagers were beginning to feel that the Government and Congress men were in the same work together. Even the little work in the Tiruvallur Firka revealed to me the fact that wherever local Congress men and constructive workers on the one hand and the Government agency on the other serve together to do constructive work in the villages there firka development work would go on quickly, effectively and extensively. Plenty of co-operation is already available from the side of the villagers. provided Government is willing to actively help even to a small extent.

A younger and a more energetic Firka Development Officer who will give day-to-day guidance to the Grama Sevaks and who can more fully utilize local co-operation, should be put in charge of this Firka.

2. *The work in the Tirumangalam Firka in the Mathurai district.*—If the work in the Tiruvallur Firka somewhat depressed me, what I saw of the work in the Tirumangalam Firka cheered me considerably. I spent four days in this Firka and visited fifteen villages, and studied in detail the work going on in them.

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The villages I visited in this Firka showed not only particular concrete items of good work but signs of a new awakening among the people. It was not merely as though some roads were being laid or wells dug or some buildings put up. But what was happening was a fairly noticeable change in the mind and the outlook of the villager. Let me put down one after another some of the good items of actual work done—

(i) Well construction in this Firka is better than anything I have seen in that line anywhere else. Every well I saw was built solidly and even beautifully with here and there bath rooms attached which the villagers prized very much. Except in the case of Harijan wells, villagers contributed nearly two-thirds of the cost including considerable manual labour free.

(ii) I saw good long roads made and I was surprised to see what enthusiasm road-making could produce in the villagers.

(iii) Firka development work in this area was greatly stimulating the building up of new schools. I saw several new school buildings for which Government grant was only one-third or one-fourth of the total cost.

(iv) The building of community latrines and the task of persuading villagers to use them instead of any open space anywhere in the village have long baffled constructive workers. Even in Sevagram under Gandhiji, it took some years to persuade villagers to co-operate in the putting up of community latrines and in persuading people to use them. Therefore, when I saw in some of the villages, fairly neat community latrines built with the full co-operation of the villagers and fairly considerable percentage of women especially acquiring the habit of using these latrines, I was surprised and pleased. In these villages, I saw this happening and all the nightsoil was being converted into compost manure. In one village at least I saw much compost manure fetching a good price in open auction. If and when community latrines and compost manure-making through them spread in the villages, it will be an excellent piece of achievement. The Tirumangalam Firka might well give lead in this work.

(v) But even more difficult than the above item of work has been the question of building some kind of drainage in villages. Drainage construction in villages has in fact been given up as a hopeless business altogether by constructive workers. It was, therefore, again a surprise and a pleasure to me to find in three or four villages I visited in the Tirumangalam Firka complete village drainage built and that with no cost at all to Government. The only assistance given by the Firka Development Department was the supply of cement at controlled price and the lending of the services of a P.W.D. supervisor to give technical advice. Each house-holder paid for the length of drainage touching his house. That villagers co-operated in such work costing some rupees four to five thousand without quarrelling in the middle of the work and giving it up, was undoubtedly an achievement in co-operative effort.

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(vi) An attempt is being made to set up co-operative stores in the villages and this has succeeded in two villages among the fifteen I visited.

(vii) Khadi production is being taken up in some centres with success. The yarn produced is given to the All-India Spinners' Association.

(viii) Everywhere in the villages, I visited, local people were co-operating enthusiastically in the work and contributing money and manual labour to an appreciable extent. The Firka Development Officer and the Grama Sevaks are able to make full use of such local co-operation.

On the whole, therefore, fairly good work is going on in the Tirumangalam Firka.

The Firka Development Officer, Sri S. Palaniswamy is enthusiastic, active and hard working. He has a good knowledge as to what is expected of him and he does not spare himself in the work. He also knows how to get on with the villagers. He has a number of good Grama Sevaks spread in the villages, notable among whom is Sri Varadan in the Nedungulam village. But the real secret of the good work in the Tirumangalam Firka is the fact that the Gandhinikethan Ashram is there in that area. The Ashram has been doing constructive work in the villages round about Kallupatti during the last ten years and chief worker, Sri Guruswamy Nadar, has fully supported the firka development work in the area. The good work in the Tirumangalam Firka is typical of what can be done when good old constructive workers and the Government agency combine to improve the villages.

I should add a word about Sri Rama Varma Raja, the Mathurai District Collector. The Firka Development Officer and the Grama Sevaks were at one in praising the solid support which the District Collector has given to them in their work. He has not only given them confidence but day-to-day aid in all their problems and difficulties. The officials of the Firka Development Department as well as Congress men and constructive workers have alike found in him a true friend and guide in all their work.

3. *The work in the Palladam Firka in the Coimbatore district.*—The Palladam Firka shows the average kind of work under the Firka Development Department. Well construction and road making are good in this Firka. Some of the community centres are well built and spinning is being organized in some of the villages. In two villages, I saw house building being done for the Harijans on the village scale. In both the cases, the initiative has come from well-to-do patrons. Morris Nagar in Semmipalayam is a newly well-built Harijan village. It must have cost about Rs. 10,000, Government contributing Rs. 2,250, the rest being a gift from the local munsif. But once the new village was built, no one is taking any particular care of its sanitation and it is already showing some signs of going back to the old condition of uncleanness. That means there is no day-to-day work among the Harijans to improve their habits but simply that they have been given a gift of new houses.

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Village sanitation work is not on the whole satisfactory or systematic. Soak pits have been made for individual houses in some villages. But they are not properly made and are failures.

In the Palladam Firka also, I found village people thoroughly alive to the advantages to be gained by co-operating with Government in improving their villages. In one Harijan village, one Harijan woman who along with others had learnt spinning proudly displayed her new khadi saree and pointed to her husband who was wearing clean white khadi clothes. Community latrines and attempts to convert nightsoil into compost manure, I did not see anywhere. Some attempts, however, are going on in the villages to dig pits and gather all rubbish in them to make manure. It just struck me that in the villages of the Palladam Firka I visited, local initiative is not being sufficiently tapped.

Wherever I went in the Palladam Firka, I sensed the Roman hand of the District Collector behind whatever was going on. Everywhere I saw inscriptions engraved on hard stones that the Collector had laid the foundation for or opened everything that had been built in the Firka. I have never before seen anywhere so many inscriptions bearing the same one name within such a circumscribed area.

The Firka Development Officer is Mr. Wellington. He is a well meaning person but slow and without previous training in constructive work. He has yet to fully grasp the ideology and methodology of the constructive programme as laid down by Gandhiji. He appears to be more concerned with road-making, well-digging, etc., than with training the villagers to cultivate local initiative and self-reliance. The Firka Development Officer requires more guidance from the Regional Firka Development Officer in the ideals and methods of village reconstruction work. With such guidance and instruction, I think he will do better.

4. *The work in the intensive khadi centre in the Avanashi Firka.*—This is an intensive khadi firka and has plenty of hand-spinning and handweaving going on. The Tamil Nad Branch of the All-India Spinners' Association had developed intensive khadi production in this area, even before Government took it over under the Firka Development Department. The problem in the other Firkas is to organize khadi production from the scratch but here the khadi foundation of firka development work is already there in this Firka. This Firka should, therefore, develop the several other items in the firka development scheme more quickly and extensively than the other Firkas. Is this happening?

The Firka Development Officer, Sri Thirumalai, is an earnest worker. He belongs to the area itself and is a person of not inconsiderable influence. He is genuinely in love with village work and is working hard to make this Firka a really model one.

Some of his Grama Sevaks are also hard working and enthusiastic.

Road-making and well-construction are quite good. Some excellent school buildings have been put up, Government contributing not more than one-third or one-fourth the cost. Village

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sanitation work is going on systematically and well. Levelling up the fallows, house-to-house cleaning, making of pits to collect all village rubbish, etc., are among the good items of work I saw. In two villages I saw community latrines newly built and people acquiring the habit of using them instead of the open spaces inside and outside the villages. Compost manure-making is also being organized.

What the Avanashi Firka now needs is to take up the harder items of the general plan for firka development like balanced cultivation, improved agriculture, setting up of multi-purpose co-operative societies, etc. Food and cloth self-sufficiency should be taken up without any further delay on a systematic and scientific basis. Also as in the Tirumangalam Firka, select villages should be encouraged and induced to build their own village drainage without any cost to the Government except the supply of technical assistance and of cement at controlled price.

PART II.

Impressions of and remarks on the work in the four firkas.

In this chapter I want to put down briefly the thoughts that came to me as I studied the work in the four firkas. These thoughts may be considered as the reactions of a constructive worker of some 23 years standing under Gandhiji :—

(i) My first impression was that for the first time, I was witnessing constructive work in the villages done directly by Government. Firka development work is the only constructive work of the Gandhian pattern done by the Government in this Province.

(ii) Firka development work has in it the seeds of Samagra Grama Seva. It is not only ameliorative work, giving villagers roads and wells, etc., but it aims at making them self-sufficient and self-reliant. Even though very little self-sufficiency has been achieved, it is in that direction that the work is being carried on. Firka development work is the only work in the Province which is touching village life on many sides. The All-India Spinners' Association, the Harijan Seva Sangh, etc., are touching village life only at one point or other.

(iii) As I have already stated firka development work offers for the first time, the opportunity for Government and constructive workers to work together in the villages. The significance of this is instinctively understood by the villagers. Their enthusiastic response begins with this understanding. Non-official constructive work has so far been only on the laboratory scale. Now it has to be applied to the whole rural area. Such application is impossible without constructive workers and Government co-operating with each other. The firka development work is an invitation to such co-operation. The Government and the people must, therefore, value the experiment greatly.

(iv) During the last 25 years, one continuous headache for non-official constructive workers has been the lack of adequate

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psychological response in terms of active co-operation from the villagers. Firka development work has brought forth such response from the villagers in a remarkable degree. This is because villagers find that the old conflict between Government and Congress constructive workers has suddenly disappeared.

(v) "Would villagers make sufficient local contribution for any work in their own villages?" has long remained a serious question. In the old non-official constructive work local contribution in money and manual labour has not been very encouraging. The position has now changed under the firka development work. Wherever Government judiciously make a small grant of money, such grant has acted effectively as a kind of tilting lever in obtaining a large measure of local contribution in money and in labour. In many villages I saw several items of work completed for which Government contribution was only Rs. 500 or less and total cost between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 4,000. If Government had not paid Rs. 500, the villagers would have gone on hesitating to take up any work. Government funds have therefore acted as tilting levers very effectively.

(vi) Construction of community latrines and cultivation of the habit of using them and the building of village drainage have long tested non-official constructive workers. Even in Sevagram under Gandhiji, it took some years before villagers were trained to do these things. That such work has been successfully begun in some of the villages is a very good sign indeed for the future firka development work.

The construction of wells through the Grama Seva Sanghams has worked well and local contribution in money and labour has been very encouraging. Road-making, also with local contribution in men and money, has also been a success. Bathrooms built close to the wells in a number of Harijan villages have given happiness and pride to Harijan women.

(vii) Firka development work has given an extraordinary impetus to village education. In many villages, new schools have sprung up, the school buildings being pucca and costing three to four times the grant given from the department. The problem however is to get trained teachers. *I strongly suggest that the first charge on the Education Department should be to supply trained basic teachers to these new schools in the selected firkas.*

(viii) On the whole, however, firka development work has so far taken up only the easier items in "The General Plan of Work" and has avoided the harder and more difficult items. Take for instance, the question of self-sufficiency in food and clothing which are the main objectives of the whole work. No result worth the name is so far available, except that the whole work is tending in that direction. A dead-line limit of five years should be given to every firka to achieve such self-sufficiency. The repair of tanks, the distribution of good seeds and implements and some effort at compost manure-making are more or less what has been done to improve agriculture. Even in regard to cloth self-sufficiency, systematic Khadi production outside the intensive

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Khadi firkas has only begun. Such items of balanced cultivation, conversion of waste land into cultivated areas and increased food production have not been seriously attempted.

(ix) Panchayats are being just formed in most villages. How these panchayats will work, one cannot say now. Multi-purpose co-operative societies have been formed only in one or two places. These have to be formed everywhere.

(x) "The General Plan for Firka Development" drawn up by the Special Committee had emphasized that no real work would or could be done without an army of trained workers. Firka Development Officers and Grama Sevakas have been given one good round of training in the last one year. They have to be trained more, and also more workers have to be recruited afresh and trained. It will not be possible to emphasize the need for training of workers too much.

In order to have more extensive and intensive training for all workers under the firka development scheme, it has now become necessary to train a special cadre of workers who will become the staff for the training of the field workers. This means a Central Institute of Rural Workers' Training, which will produce the staff to train field workers in every district and which will function as a kind of a Research Institute of Rural Work. A special scheme should be drawn up for such a Central Rural Institute without delay. A small sub-committee might be appointed to draw up the scheme for such an institute with the details of the budget, syllabus of training, etc.

Certain conclusions.

The present firka development work in 34 firkas and centres comprises about 1,500 villages. From the point of view of the old non-official constructive workers, this will appear as immense work because no old constructive work organization in the Province has so far touched so many villages simultaneously at so many points. But to the Government with its resources, this might appear as yet only small work compared to the area that has yet to be covered. But the fundamental question involved is whether the Congress Government in the Province will directly and not merely indirectly take up the constructive programme in the villages. If the answer is 'yes', then the present firka development work is the only all-round constructive work of the Gandhian pattern which the Provincial Government is doing in the Province. Firka development work means Khadi work, Harijan work, Basic Education work, Adult Education work, Sanitation work, etc. In fact, I saw Harijan cherries brightening up as never before in many places in the firkas. Under the firka development scheme, the Government is making an attempt to carry out the constructive programme in the right way and with the right outlook. In this lies the whole significance of the work.

Any intensification or extension of firka development work in the future must be based on the experience so far obtained and the machinery so far created. To run away from the present experience or to replace the present machinery would lead to waste of

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money and time and effort. The experience so far gained is fairly good and the machinery at work, though it has quite a number of defects, has stood the test fairly well so far.

PART III.

Some suggestions for future work.

My suggestions for the future work are divided into two parts, the first one concerning the departmental machinery and the second concerning the actual work in the villages.

1. *The departmental machinery.*—Attention is drawn to the seven points mentioned in Part IV of "The General Plan for Firka Development work". Though the Firka Development Department has in a sense, and rightly, become a full-fledged Department under the Provincial Firka Development Officer, there is no continuity of staff from the top to the bottom as in other Departments. At the present stage it cannot be otherwise. This draw-back only tends to emphasize the fact that the Firka Development Department has two main sides to its work, the first consisting of its own direct work in the villages and the other consisting of the co-ordination of various other departments in the work of Village Uplift within the firkas. The present state of things within the firkas shows a lack of co-ordination between the various departments concerned with village uplift work. These departments are those of Agriculture, Public Works, Education, Cottage Industries, Harijan Uplift, Public Health, the ameliorative section under Prohibition and the Women's Welfare.

The time has come to change the Firka Development Department into a full 'Rural Development Department' and to co-ordinate effectively under it the activities of the above departments inside the selected firkas. As per "The General Plan for Firka Development work", it is the District Collector through whom such co-ordination was sought to be effected. But the District Collectors are very busy persons and they cannot, perhaps, be expected to take the initiative in creating such co-ordination. At present it is only when the Firka Development Officer asks for some such co-ordination at some point of the work that the Collector sanctions it. The responsibility for initiating co-ordination thus falls on the shoulders of the Firka Development Officer. But he is not a big enough officer in the district to obtain on his own initiative all the co-ordination required for the work in the firka. At present, this state of affairs has not created big gaps but later on as the work grows in extent and volume, something will have to be done to correct the position. Later on, there might be the need in each district for a District Development Officer with status and powers for effecting real co-ordination. What is necessary at the present time however is that the Collector and the Firka Development Officer should work together in closer association, so that the measure of co-ordination now needed may be had without difficulty. If the District Collector treats the Firka Development Officer as a small fry, then no real work will be possible. It is at this point that the two Regional

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Firka Development Officers should make their full contribution by being in close touch with the District Collectors. The two Regional Firka Development Officers have, therefore, to be far more active than they are now.

Government should at the earliest date take the necessary steps for making available the effective co-ordination of the departments concerned in the work of Rural development.

2. *The work in the villages.*—Some kind of public scepticism has arisen in regard to Firka Development work, partly due to the criticism of those who have not cared to study the work going on and partly due to the general indifference of the public in regard to village work. Periodical bulletins should be issued by the Department giving the public information about the work going on. Copies of the bulletins should be made available to all Members of the Legislature, to the newspapers and magazines and to all those interested in rural work.

The time has come to take the first step in expanding the work. I suggest that two more firkas may be taken up during the next year in each district, thus taking up three firkas in all in each district during the next year. These new firkas should be adjacent to the present ones, so that each of the present Firka Development Officer will have three firkas under him instead of one. The total number of Firka Development Officers will remain the same, but the number of Firkas will increase. New Grama Sevaks however will have to be appointed to cover the villages in the new Firkas and immediate arrangements will have to be made to train them.

So far as the training of workers is concerned, not only will the present Firka Development Officers and Grama Sevaks require more training but more Grama Sevaks will have to be recruited and trained, if the work is to expand.

As I have already pointed out elsewhere in this report in the **existing firkas**, workers will now have to take up the harder items of the work, like improved and balanced cultivation the setting up of multi-purpose co-operative societies and establishing efficient panchayats. The idea should be that two years after the panchayats have been set up and trained to do the various items of the work of Rural Development, the departmental staff should be withdrawn for service in other villages in other firkas. In this way, it should be possible to cover the whole of the rural area in the Province within about ten years.

The Firka Development Officers in charge of the Intensive Khadi Centres should be given special training in order that their Firkas may give the lead in attaining food and cloth self-sufficiency. The entire Firka Development plan should be fulfilled in the intensive Khadi Centres earlier than in the other firkas.

Since more and more workers will have to be trained, as the work expands, the suggestion I have already made towards the end of Part II of this Report, that there should be established early a Central Rural Workers' Training Institute should be

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immediately taken up. This institute must train the staff which will go out to more than one training centre in every district to train the field workers.

It would be worthwhile to prepare a small hand-book of instructions and guidance to the Grama Sevaks to help them in their work.

Letter from SRI G. RAMACHANDRAN, Secretary, A.I.V.I.A. (Wardha), to the Secretary to Government, Firka Development Department, Fort St. George, Madras, dated camp Madras, the 12th August 1949.

I send herewith my report of the study I have made of the Firka Development work in 28 villages in the Telugu area. These 28 villages are in the following four Firkas which I visited between the 1st and 7th of August 1949 :—

- (1) The Rajahmundry Firka in the East Godavari district.
- (2) The Dendalur Model Firka in the West Godavari district.
- (3) The Ongole Firka in the Guntur district.
- (4) The Guravareddipalem Intensive Khadi Centre in the Guntur district.

I have divided this report also for convenience into three parts, namely, (1) Features of the work I saw, (2) My impressions of the work and (3) My suggestions for improving and enlarging the work. Please treat this report as the continuation of my earlier report dated 18th May 1949 on the 43 villages which I visited in four firkas in the Tamil areas.

I must say that generally the impressions I derived from studying the work in the Tamil area have only been confirmed by my study of the work in the Telugu area. The work in both the areas is more or less of the same pattern, the differences being only in the shades, tones and varying emphasis of the details due to the variety of local conditions. This is as it should be because no such work as Firka Development work spread over hundreds of villages in the several districts can all put up the identical features. Natural and human data which furnish the background to the work will inevitably show slightly varying reactions from area to area.

I would request you to consider my observations in the concluding part of Part II of my earlier report under the caption "Certain Conclusions" and all my suggestions for future work contained in Part III of the same document as not only good for this report but as a necessary chapter of conclusions for both the reports treated as one.

For the Tamil and Telugu areas jointly, I have now devoted a month's careful study of the work where the work is actually going on. My impressions and conclusions with the attached suggestions are, therefore, neither hurried nor casual. It is my earnest desire that Government would consider my report with care and attention and would do all that is necessary to get from the work of the Firka Development Department all the undoubted benefits it is capable of yielding for the terribly neglected masses of the people in the villages.

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Before concluding this letter there is one matter which I would wish to press upon the Government. The present Government as every Government must ultimately derive all their strength from the co-operation of the people. Particularly now when we are faced with the introduction of adult franchise the need to organize the willing co-operation of the people in all the measures and schemes of national reconstruction has become one of overwhelming importance. As I wandered from village to village and saw the terrible conditions of insanitation, poverty, ignorance and ill-health under which the vast majority of the voters of our country live, the fact came home to me that no Government would be stable or capable of putting through any worthwhile programme of national reconstruction unless they can touch the imagination of these unfortunate masses and capture their loyalty. And to-day nothing can touch their imagination or rouse their loyalty except a programme of work like that undertaken by the Firka Development Department. In this lies the significance of this work.

Most of the problems in the village are small local problems which the usual big departmental machinery cannot touch. These problems can be solved only locally in their own small way. It is only when these small problems are unattended to for a long time and in many places that they assume the big proportions of a menacing national problem. I am convinced that the big departments like the Public Works Department and Public Health cannot even notice or understand the small local agonies of the villages. It is here that the Firka Development Department steps in meeting the villagers in their own villages and discovering and remedying their little ills which if unattended to can become and do become a major national ill.

Looked at this way the funds invested in the Firka Development work and the skeleton administrative machinery given to it are extraordinarily good investments for the Government. With a little "tilting grant" the Government get the villagers to do work which cost much more and with a little direct mass contact the department obtains for the Government a measure of goodwill from the village masses out of all proportion to the work actually done. That is why I repeat the whole thing is an extraordinarily good investment for the Government. The investment can be bettered and made to give even higher dividends if my suggestions would be favourably considered and implemented without delay.

REPORT ON FIRKA DEVELOPMENT WORK IN THE TELUGU AREA,

PART I.

Features of the work I saw in 28 centres.

The following is the list of villages I visited with the dates of the visits, etc. :—

Serial number and villages.	Firkas.	Date.
1 Kadiyam	1. Rajahmundry Firka (East Godavari district).	1st and 2nd August 1949.
2 Veeravaram	Do.	Do.
3 Dulla	Do.	Do.

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Serial number and villages.	Firkas.	Date.
4 Gopannapalem ..	2. Dendulur Model Firka (West Godavari district).	3rd August 1949.
5 Rangapuram ..	Do.	Do.
6 Somavarappadu Harijan Cheri.	Do.	Do.
7 Dendulur	Do.	Do.
8 Ravulogunta Harijan Cheri.	Do.	4th August 1949.
9 Munipalli	Do.	Do.
10 Vijayarai	Do.	Do.
11 Pellur	3. Ongole Firka (Guntur district).	5th August 1949.
12 Vallur	Do.	Do.
13 Vallur Harijan Cheri.	Do.	Do.
14 Surareddipalem ..	Do.	Do.
15 Jammulapalem Harijan Cheri.	Do.	Do.
16 Jammulapalem village proper.	Do.	Do.
17 Turpunaidupalem.	Do.	Do.
18 Mallavarapadu Christian Cheri.	Do.	Do.
19 Mallavarapadu village proper.	Do.	Do.
20 Mallavarapadu Harijan Cheri.	Do.	Do.
21 Mungamur ..	4. Guruvareddipalem Intensive Khadi Centre (Guntur district).	6th August 1949.
22 Santhanuthalapadu	Do.	Do.
23 Mainampadu ..	Do.	Do.
24 Rudravaram ..	Do.	Do.
25 Guruvareddipalem including Harijan Cheri.	Do.	Do.
26 Peda Kothapalle ..	Do.	Do.
27 Maddipadu ..	Do.	Do.
28 Throvagunta Harijan Cheri.	Do.	Do.

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Work in the Rajahmundry Firka.—In this Firka I visited Kadiyam, Veeravaram and Dulla centres, giving two days to study the work, talk to villagers and workers and discuss various problems with the Presidents and Secretaries of various Grama Seva Sanghams.

Kadiyam is the selected village in the firka where the Firka Development Officer Sri C. H. Hanumantha Rao has his headquarters. I, therefore, expected to see much good work in this village particularly but I was disappointed. Except the Library located in the office of the Firka Development Officer and some feeble attempt at starting handspinning there were the other usual routine items only in this village. Kadiyam showed no signs of improvement in sanitation or village organization in any direction. The Firka Development Officer only pretends to stay in Kadiyam but he really lives elsewhere. He is a slow, lazy and careless person without initiative. In regard to one particular matter at least he deliberately tried to mislead me and quickly I showed him he was telling me a lie. He gives no day-to-day guidance to the Grama Sevaks. I am altogether clear in my mind that he will not be able to do the kind of work expected of him. He should be either transferred or his services dispensed with early.

At Veeravaram and Dulla I saw better work. The Grama Sevak in charge is Sri Krishnamurthi. He struck me as a clever, able and enthusiastic worker with qualities of leadership. At Veeravaram he has a good buffalo stud-bull, several bits of street roads improved, three wells repaired and good sanitation work to show. He has fifty charkas in the village and half of them at least are working regularly. The Grama Seva Sangham has active people in it who give Sri Krishnamurthi their co-operation.

At Dulla also Sri Krishnamurthi's work has begun to tell. The Harijan section of the village particularly is looking up. There is not only fairly good sanitation work but Harijans have confidence in the Grama Sevak. One critic who was not satisfied with the benefits given to the so-called caste Hindu section of the village asserted that Sri Krishnamurthi was very partial to the Harijans. That was a good certificate for any Grama Sevak. At Dulla I was able to meet many people and discuss with them how best they could get the best from the Firka Development work. The Dulla village is planning to put up a pucca school building towards which the villagers are willing to make a substantial contribution. Sri Krishnamurthi has a good private stock of charkas for distribution.

Both at Veeravaram and Dulla I could easily see that the villagers were enthusiastic about the schemes of work drawn up by the Firka Development Committee. There was no lack of co-operation from the side of the villagers.

At Kadiyam the Women's Welfare Department has a centre under Srimathi Swarnakumari. It was a pleasure to visit this centre kept tidily and artistically with a good number of women coming to learn Hindi, Spinning, Embroidering and to get some Adult Education. Srimathi Swarnakumari is an earnest worker and has already won a measure of affection from the village women and children. Studying the work at this centre I wished that the

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Women's Welfare Department could without delay establish such branches in all the firkas selected for our work. Such work would not only help Firka Development but make Women's Welfare work itself genuine.

From the very start of my study tour from Kadiyam cn to Dulla one problem specially came up again and again. Later in the other firkas also the same problem came up. It is the problem of house-sites for Harijans. This is a pressing and insistent demand.

At Dulla Grama Sevak, Sri Krishnamurthy has persuaded some 80 Harijans to raise Rs. 2,000 from amongst themselves for a scheme of new houses. I think it should be possible in many places to get Harijans themselves to make a substantial contribution.

The question of new house-sites is something which the Firka Development Department should take up with other departments concerned and specially with the Harijan Welfare Department. I shall have something to say about it later.

At Rajahmundry on the 2nd of August I met the Firka Development Officer again and five of his Grama Sevaks. They all repeated that the Harijans were everywhere clamouring for new house-sites. I impressed upon them that though something had been done in the villages I saw, much more remained to be done and that would be done only with much more concentration of effort on changing the psychology of the villagers from indifference and dependence to active self-help. I pointed out that digging wells and making roads were the least part of their work but that their main job was to educate the villagers to become self-reliant and self-sufficient to the maximum possible. Adult Education work in the real sense has to be taken up everywhere. I also told the Firka Development Officer that I was not at all satisfied with what he was doing.

2. *The Dendulur Model Firka.*—This model firka is in the West Godavari district. Like the Tirumangalam firka in the Tamil area, the Regional Firka Development Officer has his Grama Sevak Vidyalaya for the Telugu area inside this firka at Gopannapalem. The Regional Firka Development Officer has also his headquarters here and a band of earnest workers around him. Being the model firka intense work goes on in it.

I reached Gopannapalem on the 3rd afternoon and inspected the Vidyalaya, the office, the library, the dispensary, etc. The whole place looks like an ashram with workers living a life of hard work and simplicity. A local Congressman, Sri Ch. Anjaneyulu, gave 30 acres of land and a building at a cost of Rs. 10,000. The institution is located in this land and the Regional Firka Development Officer's office in this building. This friend as also started a village workshop containing a carpentry, a blacksmithy and a shoe and sandal-making unit on the other side of the road. A new village shandy has been started across the road and this has become popular with the villagers. I saw the shandy in full swing on the day of my visit. On market days the Grama Sevak and other workers do propaganda among the assembled villagers for better sanitation and better living.

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The Gopannapalem institution is in touch with about 50 villages round about. The library and the dispensary are made use of in this whole area. The institution has arranged for the distribution of paddy on a co-operative basis throughout the local area where Government have stopped the rice mills. The stopping of the rice mills is a great boon in the area, giving employment to many people and in conserving the nutritional value of the rice consumed in the area. I was surprised to hear that even some Congressmen are taking sides with rice mill-owners against the common people.

The Grama Sevaks in the Telugu area have had two rounds of training already at the Grama Sevak Vidyalaya in Gopannapalem.

The village centres I visited in this firka were Rangapuram, Somavarapadu, Dendulur, Ravulogunta, Munipalli and Vijayarai. We saw the wells and newly made roads in these villages. At Ravulogunta Harijan cheri I saw excellent sanitation and a good awakening among the Harijans. There was a good stud-bull and a good stud-buffalo. One remarkable thing was that the Harijans have jointly collected about Rs. 1,000 and purchased vessels for the same, for common use by the cheri on festival occasions. That was a good act of co-operation. The Harijan school in the cheri is a model of its kind and the teacher and his wife look after it with devotion; but a little away is another school attended only by the children of the so-called caste Hindus. Both schools get grant from Government. This appeared to me waste of public funds and strange at a time when a nationwide effort is being made to wipe out separatism as between the Harijans and the rest of the community. I shall have to say more about this later. Here also there was the clamour for better house-sites for the Harijans.

At Munipalli we saw Sri K. Satyanarayana, a lawyer, who became a yogi, in his own ashram. This man is a remarkable person who lives humbly in an environment of simple work and duty. He himself earns his bread by weaving khadi. One of the mottos of the ashram is "No work, no food". The Guru and his followers exercise a silent but good influence among the villagers round about. They do good village work simply by setting the right example.

At Vijayarai we saw a good 2½-mile road made with the full co-operation of the villagers who have paid in labour and land one-third of the cost. There is a local Ayurvedic pharmacy and dispensary which is the only institution of medical aid available in the village. It deserves a good grant from Government under any suitable head.

The Firka Development Officer is Sri Y. Ramasastri who acted previously as the Principal of the Grama Sevak Vidyalaya at Gopannapalem. He is a constructive worker of more than 20 years' standing and he fully knows the ideals and methods of village work. But I am afraid he is overconfident and therefore somewhat complacent. There are some Grama Sevaks and Firka Development Officers without any previous background of constructive work who find it difficult to understand the demands of the new work. There are others who think they know all about it and therefore do not

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attend to details. Sri Ramasastry is in the latter category. He should be specially instructed to take pains to deal with details and what might appear as obvious. The present Principal of the Grama Sevak Vidyalaya, Sri Prakasharayadu, is an acquisition to our work.

At Dendulur we saw a plot of excellent land donated by Srimathi Hymavathi Devi, a well-to-do lady of the village, for locating a unit of medical work. I understand she has also donated Rs. 20,000 in cash for the same work. But nothing has been done with these gifts. It also does not appear as though anything will be done in the near future. Perhaps proposals are going about between several departments concerned. In such a case, why should not the Firka Development Department have the freedom to find out some medical men or women and to ask them to settle down and start the work without waiting indefinitely for some action from the Medical Department? This and similar other instances raise important issues which I shall discuss later. At Dendulur I also saw a big village tank repaired for which the villagers paid Rs. 5,000.

3. *Ongole Firka*.—This is in the Guntur district and I visited nine village centres in it. In this firka I had a fairly and extensive view of the work going on. In all the nine villages Firka Development work has become popular and people are looking to our workers for guidance and assistance. Sanitation in these villages is the best I have so far seen. Levelling up of street roads, general cleanliness and well-made manure pits were features of the work in these villages. Spaces between village houses and the backyards were free of filth, bad smell and ugliness. This is a remarkable achievement. We saw a number of wells which were also better built than in the other two firkas. The village library system is working well. Stud-bulls and stud-buffaloes and even Berkshire pigs are popular in the villages. At Jammulapalem I saw a library built at a cost of Rs. 2,800 to which Government grant paid was only Rs. 500.

In almost all the nine villages I visited, I saw separate Adi-Andhra schools for Harijans and for the so-called caste Hindus within the same village. At one end is the Adi-Andhra school with a majority of Harijan children and a very small number of other children and at the other end of the village a much better school with only caste Hindu children and not a single Harijan child. Both the Adi-Andhra and the other schools receive Government grant. When I made careful enquiries, the caste Hindu teachers and villagers in the latter schools kept on repeating that no one prevented Harijan children from joining these schools. But no one came, that was all. Curiously again in every case, the Adi-Andhra schools receiving Government aid had only Christian teachers. It seems to me that caste Hindus and the Christian teachers are in some silent agreement in regard to this matter. It suits the caste Hindus to pretend that Harijan children find it inconvenient to come to these schools and it suits the Christian teachers to attract all the Harijan children to their schools. To me, it is not a question of Christians versus Hindus. But why should the separatism of the Adi-Andhra schools be perpetuated even

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to-day when all such separatism becomes the betrayal of the new nationhood in India. How does the Education Department make grants to two schools at two ends of the same village and that in village after village. This is a matter for the immediate and careful attention of the Government.

The Firka Development Officer Sri Bavaji is an ex-I.N.A. man and has a sense of patriotism. But he should understand more fully the ideas and methods of constructive work in village. I think he also does not stay regularly in the Vallur village where he is expected to stay and his family is elsewhere. The idea that the Firka Development Officers should stay in a selected village is of fundamental importance and no relaxation of this rule should be permitted. The Grama Sevaks I met in this area are generally smart and hard-working people but I have the clear impression that they, like the Grama Sevaks in most of the places, should have more day-to-day guidance from the Firka Development Officers and the Regional Firka Development Officer.

I had crowded meetings in some of the villages attended by large numbers of women. The women also have begun to feel the warmth of the new work. The Women's Welfare department should concentrate on training and sending their women workers to the firkas where our work is going on because such women workers will be able to make use of the awakening among women. The women of the villages are calling for such work and there should be no delay in meeting the demand. Throughout the Ongole villages there was enthusiasam and a willing spirit of co-operation.

4. *Guruvareddipalem Intensive Khadi Centre.*—The centres visited in this firka are the eight villages mentioned in the list in Part I. One big piece of work in this firka is an eight miles long ring road linking up a number of villages. Villagers have met one-third the cost by giving labour and the necessary land. At Santhanuthalapadu and at Guravareddipalem we saw khadi in its natural environment, the villagers spinning, weaving and wearing their own khaddar. The stocks of khadi at these villages is worth only Rs. 20,000 but that gives no idea of khadi production in this area. The weavers are Harijans and when I asked some caste Hindus who appeared orthodox how they can wear khadi woven by Harijans, they smilingly said that they dip the cloth in water before taking it in ! It was easy for me to expose the superstition underlying such conduct. The khaddar produced is even and strong. I met here more villagers wearing khadi than in any other place I have known. For the first time in the Telugu area I saw village latrines being made and used. But curiously three or four latrines I saw in these villages are flush latrines with porcelain equipment. The water is flushed from buckets and the rubbish is flushed into septic tanks. Curiously again villagers seem to be proud about these latrines but I saw evidence already that such latrines might not be maintained properly. In one place children have gathered leaves and thorns and tried to dump them into the flushes. Everywhere villagers have met at least one-third the cost of these latrines. I am afraid, however, that in a few months

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these latrines might become filthy without proper care. Moreover, all the manure value of human refuse is lost in the septic tanks. I am of the view that trench latrines should be encouraged in preference to the flush latrines.

In this area also villages have Adi-Andhra schools and other schools within the same circumference, and in every case Christian teachers are in charge of the Adi-Andhra schools. The same convenience of arrangement between the caste Hindus and the Christian teachers I have already referred to is accepted in this area also.

At Rudravaram I saw a beautiful building which would to-day cost Rs. 50,000 given to the Firka Development work for locating a health unit free of rent for 20 years. Here again, nothing has been done and perhaps nothing done for a long time. Why should not the Firka Development Department be free to make use of this building for a maternity centre with a trained midwife in charge without waiting for other moves and developments. Maternity centres are the crying need in the villages. It would be worthwhile for the Firka Development Department to offer facilities to the Andhra branch of the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust to open Maternity centres in such places.

At Maddipadu, I saw a library building costing about Rs. 6,000 collected entirely by the villagers. At Santhanuthalapadu also we saw a library building costing Rs. 2,500 to which Firka Development grant was only Rs. 500. In this area as in others the rural library system of the department is working very well.

Several step wells which had become difficult and dilapidated have now been rebuilt as draw wells much to the convenience of the villagers.

One of the Grama Sevaks Sri Narasimham, himself a Harijan, stays in the Throvagunta cheri. He is a good fighter on the side of the Harijans and has created quite a lot of healthy trouble in the locality. He is popular with the Harijans and gives them good leadership. We had an inter-caste dinner at his place at which his wife served the food along with another Harijan woman.

The Firka Development Officer Sri Satyanarayana is a good worker and also a champion of the Harijans.

PART II.

My impressions of the work.

1. As in the Tamil area so in the Telugu area also village people are happy and inspired by the fact that the Firka Development work is village work in which Congress constructive workers and Government have become one.

2. In the Telugu area also Firka Development work is developing slowly as Samagra Grama Seva, touching village life at as many points as possible.

3. In the Telugu area also villagers are enthusiastic about the new programmes of work and are readily offering their co-operation. In the Ongole Firka and in the Guruvareddipalem centre this was specially so.

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4. Local contribution for wells and roads is on a smaller scale and proportion than in the Tamil area. This is surprising because the Telugu villages, I saw were more prosperous than those in the Tamil area. Perhaps the idea has gone out in the Telugu area that Government would be very free with their funds. I am quite sure that if the villagers in the prosperous Telugu villages are properly guided, a larger proportion of local contribution would be forthcoming. The Firka Development Officers should take the responsibility in explaining the position to the villagers.

5. Sanitation in the Ongole and Guruvareddipalem villages was distinctly better than what I saw in the Tamil villages. But construction of latrines and compost manure making in the proper way have yet to be organized. The craze for flush latrines must not be encouraged.

6. The making of manure pits is systematic and good almost everywhere we went.

7. The wells in the Telugu area seem to be more costly and generally less well built than in the Tamil districts. No attempt is made to attach bath rooms to village wells. Latrines and bath rooms are urgently needed for village women who suffer greatly for lack of these. The Regional Firka Development Officer and the Firka Development Officers must give more attention to this work.

8. Making new schools has received as in the Tamil area an impetus from the Firka Development work but not to the same extent as in Tamilnad. Continuation of separate schools for Harijans and others in the same village for any reason whatsoever must be put a stop to and Grama Sevaks and Firka Development Officers must combine to effect this reform without delay.

9. Grama Seva Sanghams have been formed almost in all villages, but they are not active enough and are not given enough guidance. The Regional Firka Development Officer must look into this matter more fully. It would be a good idea to give groups of village adults from place to place and from time to time one week's training camps to enable them to appreciate and to co-operate with our work. Such training camps would help in preparing the villagers to receive our assistance and to give back their assistance. It would be a programme of easy adult education in villages.

10. I saw no co-operative stores. Instead of waiting for multi-purpose co-operative societies, an attempt should be made straight-away to organize at least small co-operative stores in the villages and wherever such co-operative stores are organized they should be entrusted with the distribution of controlled articles.

11. No real attempt is going on to organize village panchayats.

12. The Lahore and M.B. sheds built at much cost are not being properly and fully utilized. A small part of the space inside them is used for storing a few things, like agricultural implements, etc. With a good petromax lantern they can be used for adult education classes and for organizing rural entertainments and dramas which would have an educational value for the villagers in dealing with their many problems.

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13. As in the Tamil area till now only easier items like digging wells and making roads, etc., have been taken up. Little attention is paid to balanced cultivation or agricultural improvement or to organize panchayats and multi-purpose co-operative societies.

14. It is useless asking villagers to produce more food without even improving small old irrigation tanks which have become useless due to many reasons. Improvement of such tanks should be given first priority in the work of Firka Development. Here also departmental delays and technical difficulties should be brushed aside if the people are to produce more food.

15. My clear impression is that the condition of the Harijans in the Telugu area in regard to the removal of untouchability is at least ten years behind that of their brethren in the Tamil area. I do not know if in the Telugu area the idea is still held that separate schools and separate wells are good for Harijans. At Guruvareddipalem we were able to persuade caste Hindu villagers to allow Harijans to draw water from a common well which till now was not open to them. Conditions are ripe for such a reform and a drive must now be organized in this direction. Village temples are also not yet open to Harijans. A temple entry drive in villages is also now overdue. The Collectors and the Regional Firka Development Officer must take up the responsibility for such work, otherwise whatever laws are enacted by the Madras Government will remain only on paper. In many villages it is not even known what penalties the law now imposes on those who would obstruct Harijans in the exercise of their rights as citizens. Unless the Collectors are instructed to move in this matter immediately and effectively, the Harijans will fall a prey to the propaganda of the Communists who are everywhere active to exploit such situations. I consider this a very important matter.

16. The Regional Firka Development Officer in the Telugu area is a real asset to the work. His experience, hard work, enthusiasm and sincerity impressed me. But he will have to give more day-to-day guidance to all workers under him in the Telugu area.

There is plenty of energy and enthusiasm in the Telugu area among the workers and the people and these must be more fully organized and canalized, if the work is to succeed in full measure.

PART III.

Suggestions for improving the work.

1. Firka Development Officers and Grama Sevaks in the Telugu area also should get more and more courses of periodical training as the work is developing and expanding. The training so far has been good but it should become better.

2. No Firka Development Officer or Grama Sevak should be allowed to continue in service unless they reside with their families in the village. The Regional Firka Development Officer for the Telugu area has set a good example in this regard.

3. The travelling allowances for the Firka Development Officers must be increased if they are to supervise the work more effectively.

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4. The task of increasing the extent of cultivation of food-crops must be taken on hand through the repairing and even making small irrigation tanks and through extensive compost manure making and distribution of better seeds.

5. The separatism attaching to the Harijans in regard to schools and wells must be tackled immediately as already pointed out and the Collectors must be instructed to take up the lead in this matter.

6. As mentioned in regard to the firkas in the Tamil area, all primary schools in the selected firkas in the Telugu area should also get priority in the matter of their conversion into Basic Schools by the Education Department. Basic Schools will strengthen Firka Development work like nothing else and the Education Department cannot get more fruitful area than the selected firkas for converting existing schools into Basic Schools. I am afraid this matter has not yet obtained the consideration it deserves at the hands of the Government.

7. More systematic supervision of the work of the Grama Sevak has become urgently necessary. The meeting of all the Grama Sevaks in each firka once a week in some village and planning the work from week to week must be made more real and effective. Firka Development Officers must be given stringent instructions in this regard.

8. As mentioned in the case of the firkas in the Tamil area, the time has now come to organize the more difficult items of work in the Telugu firkas also such as the organization of co-operative stores, panchayats and of balanced cultivation.

9. The Food Production Drive in the selected firkas specially in relation to rice would look ridiculous if rice mills are not closed at least in the selected firkas in favour of handpounded rice.

10. Construction of village latrines on the trench system must be taken up in the villages systematically. I saw no drainage constructions in the Telugu area as in the Tamil area. It is wrong to think that drains are unnecessary or cannot be built except in the dry areas. Village drain making is so important that it should not be neglected any longer.

11. An attempt should be made to increase local contributions for all works in the Telugu area. I have referred to this already.

12. Now I come to the most important of my suggestion which I have already raised in my earlier report on the work in the Tamil area.

I refer to the lack of co-ordination in the work of Firka Development among the various departments concerned. In the Telugu firkas also this lack of co-ordination has become a serious obstacle to anything being done without delays and many obstructions. Firka Development work has to be done by and through various other departments, like those of the Public Works Department, Public Health, Agriculture, Co-operation, etc. All the old routine is continued in undertaking items of work in the selected firkas also. There are delays in the payment of works long done. A list

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of books for a library has to be approved by the Education Department and then sent to the Provincial Firka Development Officer for approval. For installing a radio prolonged correspondence goes on with the Provincial Radio Engineer even if the villagers make a suitable place to keep it. To get a stud bull a Grama Seva Sangham has not merely to wait on the District Firka Development Committee but the matter has to go to the Joint Director of Animal Husbandry. No health work can be easily organized without going through a long and tedious circuit of routine procedure. I found in villages a latrine could not be made at a suitable place because inspection and permission has to come from far away and even then all sorts of technical difficulties are raised.

After my experience in the Telugu area, I am convinced more than ever that if the Firka Development work should succeed, some way should be found to cut short red-tape procedure and long-range exchange of correspondence. In my view an immediate solution can be found if the District Collector is authorized to order the execution of the works once the District Firka Development Committee has agreed to them. The District Collector can consult the District Officers concerned before the District Firka Development Committee arrives at a decision, but once that decision is taken the District Collector should have authority to go on with the work without waiting for long-range permission from Madras. District Collectors may therefore be given such authority pending a permanent solution of the difficulty indicated.

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 102 asked by Sri M. Narayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th January 1950, pages 1040 and 1041 supra.]

Statement showing the quantities of iron and steel and galvanized iron sheets released for agricultural purposes in the various districts during the period from 1st January to 30th September 1949.

Serial number and depots in the districts.					Quantity of iron and steel.	Quantity of galvanized iron sheets.
					TONS.	TONS.
1	North	Visakhapatnam	..	..	89	42
2	South	Visakhapatnam	..	..	62	..
3	East	Godavari	..	..	199	102
4	West	Godavari	..	..	215	..
5	Krishna	..	..	..	221	126
6	Guntur	..	..	..	144	30
7	Nellore	..	..	..	231	14
8	Kurnool	..	..	..	49	2
9	Anantapur	..	..	..	113	..

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Serial number and depots in the districts.						Quantity of iron and steel. TONS.	Quantity of galvanized iron sheets. TONS.
10	Bellary	..	..	..	..	91	..
11	Cuddapah	..	..	..	..	144	..
12	Chittoor	..	..	..	..	130	..
13	North Arcot	..	..	..	..	249	7
14	Chingleput	..	..	..	..	141	..
15	South Arcot	..	..	..	..	187	..
16	Tanjore	..	..	..	..	125	..
17	Pattukkottai	..	..	..	..	83	..
18	Tiruchirappalli	..	..	..	..	65	..
19	Mathurai	..	..	..	..	200	..
20	Tirunelveli	..	..	..	..	192	..
21	Ramnad	..	..	..	..	155	8
22	Salem	..	..	..	..	63	..
23	Coimbatore	..	..	..	..	132	..
24	Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	6	..
25	Malabar	..	..	..	..	23	16
26	South Kanara	..	..	..	..	21	..
Total						3,330	347

N.B.—The remaining quantities of 1,060 tons of iron and steel and 152 tons of galvanized iron sheets represent direct releases to agriculturists and fabricators as well as permits under acquisition.

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 95-A asked by Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th January 1950, page 1044 supra.]

Statement showing the Revenue and Expenditure (on Revenue Account) in the districts of the Madras Province during 1948-49 according to the figures as now available.

MADRAS PROVINCE.

I.—REVENUE (1948-49).

(In lakhs of rupees.)

Districts.	Land revenue including por- tion due to ir- rigation.	Excise.	Stamps.	Regis- tration.	Receipts under Motor Vehi- cles Acts	General Sales Tax.	Other taxes and duties (Enter- tainments tax, Betting tax, etc.)	Other Direct Receipts (Edu- cation, Medi- cal, Adminis- tration of Jus- tice, etc.)	Total.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A—Telugu districts—									
1 Visakhapatnam ..	16 12	53.18	25.32	2.91	7.17	44.59	4.15	10.75	1,64.19
2 East Godavari ..	56.43	42.35	30.68	3.43	5.22	36.60	5.46	10.31	1,90.53
3 West Godavari ..	50.87	30.70	29.82	3.41	4.44	29.09	4.38	6.22	1,58.93
4 Krishna ..	47.88	31.21	37.71	4.05	7.96	39.88	6.63	6.81	1,82.13
5 Guntur ..	78.62	2.53	45.53	4.69	8.21	41.00	5.45	11.22	1,97.15
6 Nellore ..	25.84	1.26	11.82	1.45	4.13	15.43	2.01	5.96	67.90
7 Cuddapah ..	12.90	0.69	6.69	0.87	4.00	15.43	1.30	7.17	49.05
8 Anantapur ..	12.25	0.30	7.87	1.05	2.96	15.03	2.86	9.18	51.50
9 Bellary (three taluks)*.	7.40	0.06	2.93	0.35	1.36	8.42	1.12	2.70	24.34
10 Kurnool ..	19.45	0.39	8.81	1.09	2.67	20.40	1.07	8.35	60.09
11 Chittoor ..	4.31	0.65	9.44	1.41	4.78	15.86	2.91	9.35	48.71
Total—A ..	3,31.97	1,63.92	2,16.62	24.71	52.90	2,81.73	35.20	88.07	11,94.52

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B—Other districts—

12 Bellary (six taluks) †	14.80	0.12	5.86	0.70	2.71	16.84	2.24	5.41	48.68
13 North Arcot ..	14.19	0.95	22.86	3.23	8.97	42.94	5.54	10.73	1,09.41
14 Chingleput ..	13.04	30.26	12.43	2.49	4.34	22.71	5.71	11.23	1,02.21
15 South Arcot ..	32.94	39.95	23.73	3.47	3.92	28.57	4.40	9.05	1,46.03
16 Tanjore ..	91.29	1.33	34.80	4.73	4.52	51.66	5.53	12.28	2,06.14
17 Tiruchirappalli ..	34.91	1.02	27.06	3.69	8.10	44.01	5.90	8.67	1,33.36
18 Mathurai ..	32.34	1.20	34.76	4.43	13.48	80.86	14.13	2.93	1,84.13
19 Ramnad ..	5.35	13.73	20.45	3.39	4.50	47.90	3.53	7.11	1,05.96
20 Tirunelveli ..	33.43	26.19	26.92	4.57	7.88	60.22	3.61	9.40	1,72.22
21 Coimbatore ..	31.63	1.61	38.22	4.81	15.91	1,13.05	0.52	33.61	2,38.32
22 Nilgiris ..	2.29	1.01	4.45	0.35	6.40	..	1.11	4.13	54.74
23 Salem ..	26.66	1.64	26.33	4.09	9.67	46.36	6.67	11.11	1,32.53
24 South Kanara ..	44.25	0.38	13.85	2.04	6.81	35.43	3.94	11.91	1,18.61
25 Malabar ..	52.68	1.86	32.14	7.19	16.36	1,09.84	10.64	23.47	2,54.18
26 Madras City ..	7.02	81.97	63.07	13.76	30.38	3,20.89	84.69	1,29.81†	7,32.19
Total—B ..	4,36.82	2,08.22	3,86.93	62.94	1,44.55	10,21.28	1,72.12	2,90.85	27,18.71
C—Grand total (A+B) ..	7,68.79	3,66.54	6,03.55	87.65	1,97.45	13,03.01	2,07.32§	3,78.92	39,13.23
			(Gross)						

* Figures given are one-third of the district figures.

† Figures given are two-thirds of the district figures.

(Note.—Excludes Public Works, Forest and Electricity Department's receipts.)

† Includes Madras Bus Service gross receipts Rs. 90 lakhs.

§ Excludes tobacco tax compensation.

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MADRAS PROVINCE.

I. REVENUE (1948-49)—*cont.*

(In lakhs of rupees.)

	A—Telugu districts excluding Kannada taluks of Bellary district.	B—Other districts including Madras City and six Kannada taluks in Bellary district.	C—Total.
1 Direct receipts as shown on the previous page (including Excise Receipts).	11,94.52	27,18.71	39,13.23
2 Add—Forest and Public Works Department Receipts (including Electricity Department)	17.73	1,93.12	2,10.85
3 Share of Central Government's compensation in lieu of Provincial tax on tobacco	7.70	14.30	22.00
4 Share of Income-tax proceeds (on population basis*)	3,07.41	5,34.81	8,42.22 (a)
5 Share of Central Grant for the year for Post-war Reconstruction and Grow More Food Schemes (mainly on population basis*)	1,13.15	1,96.85	3,10.00
6 Share of Interest on Cash Balance Investment (on population basis*). ..	25.52	44.39	69.91
7 Share of other common adjustments (on a population basis*)	— 15.66	— 27.25	— 42.91
8 Total Revenue including Excise Receipts	16,50.37	36,74.93	53,25.30
9 Total Revenue excluding Excise Receipts	14,87.05	34,71.71	49,58.76

* Population of Telugu areas *excluding* six Kannada taluks in Bellary district—86.5 per cent.

Population of other areas *including* six Kannada taluks in Bellary district—63.5 per cent.

(a) Includes Rs. 90 lakhs received in arrear as part payment for the pre-partition period in 1947-48.

MADRAS PROVINCE.

II.—EXPENDITURE ON REVENUE ACCOUNT (1948-49).

(In lakhs of rupees.)

Districts.	General adminis- tration.	Adminis- tration of Justice.	Jails and Convict Settle- ments.	Police.	Education.	Medical and Public Health.	Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-opera- tion and Industries.	Other items of expendi- ture (c).	Total columns (1) to (9).
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
A—Telugu districts—									
1 Visakhapatnam ..	33.50	6.32	3.67	28.14	48.46	29.61	15.75	45.69	2,11.14
2 East Godavari ..	21.84	5.54	5.76	16.89	40.64	11.82	12.30	51.03	1,65.82
3 West Godavari ..	18.44	4.51	0.54	16.62	33.83	5.64	6.05	32.22	1,17.85
4 Krishna	19.14	5.37	1.50	20.75	28.89	6.56	6.24	39.99	1,28.44
5 Guntur	25.11	6.97	1.15	20.06	46.25	10.52	13.01	37.44	1,60.51
6 Nellore	20.64	3.93	0.76	16.23	21.44	6.03	6.28	23.87	99.18
7 Cuddapah	17.48	2.75	0.75	12.55	16.76	5.66	5.00	18.63	79.58
8 Anantapur	17.48	2.71	0.41	15.61	19.68	4.46	4.28	22.86	87.49
9 Bellary (three taluks) (a).	5.65	0.91	2.97	6.27	3.78	3.27	2.47	7.60	32.92
10 Kurnool	20.58	3.29	0.56	14.7	22.22	3.76	5.03	21.01	91.42
11 Chittoor	19.03	3.40	0.70	16.95	21.01	5.65	4.84	20.55	91.53
Total—A ..	2,18.89	45.70	18.77	1,85.04	3,02.96	92.38	81.25	3,20.89	12,65.88

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<i>Districts.</i>	<i>General adminis- tration.</i>	<i>Adminis- tration of Justice.</i>	<i>Jails and Convict Settle- ments.</i>	<i>Police.</i>	<i>Education.</i>	<i>Medical and Public Health.</i>	<i>Agriculture, Veterinary, Co-operation and Industries.</i>	<i>Other items of expendi- ture (c).</i>	<i>Total columns (1) to (9).</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
B—Other districts—									
12 Bellary (six taluks) (b)	11.30	1.82	5.94	12.55	7.55	6.54	4.95	15.18	65.83
13 North Arcot	24.41	5.46	15.07	27.43	34.58	10.83	7.70	41.93	1,67.41
14 Chingleput	22.15	4.04	2.86	34.30	27.63	22.94	6.00	35.37	1,55.29
15 South Arcot	27.37	5.55	4.24	14.82	33.86	5.03	8.93	41.18	1,40.98
16 Tanjore	32.87	9.01	2.69	19.51	33.83	13.11	12.33	59.35	1,82.70
17 Tiruchirappalli ..	21.75	5.48	5.80	29.11	25.17	8.05	4.71	42.31	1,42.38
18 Mathurai	21.02	7.05	3.94	29.84	29.54	15.16	7.07	57.10	1,70.72
19 Ramnad	17.96	6.27	0.98	20.49	26.96	5.14	5.70	31.73	1,15.23
20 Tirunelveli	21.64	5.66	3.34	19.37	54.45	4.59	11.15	41.27	1,61.47
21 Coimbatore	25.07	6.75	17.06	27.07	31.19	13.37	38.03	65.51	2,24.05
22 Nilgiris	4.81	0.80	0.10	5.52	6.38	6.58	4.29	16.09	44.57
23 Salem	25.75	5.19	5.99	20.90	22.51	8.49	9.53	36.17	1,34.53
24 South Kanara	17.23	4.72	0.65	9.82	37.06	5.48	7.67	28.60	1,11.23
25 Malabar	24.16	11.96	5.94	44.66	1,29.13	19.58	21.84	68.19	3,25.46
26 Madras City	67.30	24.57	16.71	1,51.57	87.13	1,29.84	1,09.33	12,79.25(d)	18,65.70
Total—B ..	3,64.79	1,04.33	91.31	4,66.96	5,86.97	2,74.73	2,59.23	18,59.23	40,07.55
C—Grand total (A+B) ..	5,83.68	1,50.03	1,10.08	6,52.00	8,89.93	3,67.11	3,40.48	21,80.12	52,73.43(e)

(a) The figures given are one-third of the district figures.

(b) The figures given are two-thirds of the district figures.

(c) Excludes expenditure relating to the works of Public Works, Forest and Electricity Departments.

(d) Includes working expenses of the Madras City Bus Service (Rs. 76 lakhs) and transfer adjustments common to the whole Province, which are allocated separately below.

(e) Excludes Rs. 51 lakhs transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund.

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MADRAS PROVINCE.

II.—EXPENDITURE ON REVENUE ACCOUNT (1948-49)—*cont.*

(In lakhs of rupees.)

	A—Telugu districts excluding six Kannada taluks in the Bellary district.	B—Other districts including Madras City and six Kannada taluks in the Bellary district.	C—Total.
1 Expenditure as shown on the previous page	12,65·88	40,07·55	52,73·43
2 Adjustment on account of share of allocable items included in the figures for Madras City—			
(a) Forest and Public Works Departments including Electricity Department (557·99) ..	2,21·91		
(b) Debt charges (170·43) ..	52·00		
(c) Presidency payments excluding local transactions (314·00) ..	1,14·61		
(d) Miscellaneous items (201·76) ..	73·64		
(e) Net outlay on State Trading Schemes :—			
(i) Grain Supply Schemes—Gross expenditure 467·77			
Deduct—Central Government's special bonus for procurement. ..—210·42			
Net 257·35			
(ii) Other Schemes (—60·02)	—21·91		
Total—item 2	4,40·25	—4,40·25	..
3 Total expenditure on Revenue account.	17,06·13	35,67·30	52,73·43
4 Total Revenue excluding Excise as in Statement I	14,87·05	34,71·71	49,58·76
5 Deficit (—)	—2,19·08	—95·59	—3,14·67 (a)

Note.—The allocation in item 2 is only approximate. The allocation has been made on the basis of population (36·5 per cent for the Telugu areas and 63·5 per cent for the other areas including six Kannada taluks in the Bellary district) for item 2 (c), (d) and (e) (ii). No debit has been made to the Telugu areas under item 2 (e) (i)—Net outlay on State Trading Schemes (Grain Supply Schemes) as these areas are generally surplus in the matter of foodgrains.

(a) According to the actuals of 1948-49 as now available, there was a surplus of about Rs. 51 lakhs in the Province as a whole, but this was arrived at after including Excise Receipts of Rs. 366·54 lakhs. Excluding Excise Receipts, the net result would have been a deficit of about Rs. 3·15 lakhs as shown here.

